THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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TOWN.....11-8.
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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 29TH OCTOBER.

THE HEENAN CASE has attracted notice in England. The *Manchester Guardian* makes the following remarks upon it:

A young Englishman has been recently tried at Calcutta for the offence of 'culpable homicide,' and the result, judging from a brief outline given in the *Times* does not appear to have been satisfactory. The prisoner had been detected attempting to enter by night the house of a planter with whom he was on visiting terms. It is not stated what his precise motive is supposed to have been, but it may be gathered that it was rather improper than actually criminal. The alarm was given, and he attempted to escape. However, before he was clear of the premises one of the native servants seized hold of him. On finding his efforts to shake off his assailant ineffectual, he fired three shots successively with a revolver, causing injuries which resulted in the death of the man. He was consequently put on his trial for 'culpable homicide,' and, being convicted, received the sentence of eighteen months imprisonment. We are aware that in its definition of murder the Indian penal code differs from the English law and that it requires always more distinct evidence of purpose and deliberation. But we cannot understand how in reason or justice anyone who employs a deadly weapon against a person who lawfully endeavours to apprehend him in the commission of an unlawful act is [illegible] than a murderer. The fact of a man arming himself with a revolver when engaged in such an expedition is pretty conclusive evidence of malice and deliberation. [illegible] correspondent, however applauds the justice of the sentence remarking as a proof of its being about the right thing that the English papers condemn it as too heavy the native papers as too light. We must say that we agree with the native papers.

THE WAR in Acheen has disturbed the equilibrium of the finances of Holland, and the Dutch Government announce that the accounts show a deficit of 7,300,000 florins. The war expenditure during the last two years has amounted to about 53 millions of florins.

MORE BRIBERY and corruption in America. Mr. W. M. Tweed has brought his confederate Mr. Jay Gould into trouble by the disclosure of the manner in which the Erie Classification Bill was "engineered" through the Legislature at Albany. Mr. Tweed says that he procured the passage of the bill through bribery, at the request of Mr. Gould, who provided the necessary funds. The city of Philadelphia is greatly excited by the discovery of heavy defalcations in connection with a tramway company. Mr. Morton, the president, and other officials have over-issued shares of the company to the amount of a million of dollars as collateral security for private loans. The over-issues exceed the entire capital of the company. Mr. Morton was President of the Philadelphia International Exhibition.

THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR KISSING.—At the Warwick county petty session William Mason, a labourer, was charged with assaulting Miss M. Helena Courtney, daughter of the Rev. H. C. Courtney, rector of Hatton. The young lady while walking in a meadow near the rectory, was met by the prisoner, who put his arms round her neck and endeavoured to kiss her. The Magistrate sentenced the man to three months' imprisonment with hard labor.

A PICTURE OF FAMINE. Sir Joseph Whitworth has reproduced a photograph of a famine-stricken group received from the chief engineer of the Madras Railway Company. The editor of the *Manchester Guardian*, who has seen it, says that the figures tell their tale more plainly than any words, and the extreme of misery is stamped with hideous distinctness on every limb of these ghastly living skeletons. The picture—there are some children and a baby—is indeed almost too horrible.

AS A PROOF of the continued interest of Mr. Bright in India a friend mentions a fact, which is worth noticing. An Indian student in England was hard up for money, and Mr. Bright on coming to know of this gave him a cheque for £100.

THE OLD DAYS of English kindness to the Indian have not passed away. We noticed last week the death of Babu Ronendranath Banerjea, a young man of great promise, employed in the office of Messrs. Schoene Kilburn & Co. His masters so much appreciated his services that they have settled on his family a pension of Rs. 100 per month till his sons, who are minors, are able to support themselves. A younger brother of the deceased has been provided for by the firm. It is acts of kindness of this sort, which make the English name so much respected by the natives.

THE FOLLOWING gentlemen were among the successful candidates at the Competitive Examination held in August for the Indian Medical Service: Mr. F. C. Chatterjea, Mr. H. P. Jervis, Mr. B. N. Koyaji, Mr. M. E. Reporter, and Mr. K. S. Nariman. They have now proceeded to Netley Hospital.

TUESDAY, 30TH OCTOBER.

IN THE RECENT EXAMINATION of the University of London, Babu Promath Nath Bose, of University College, passed in the First B. Sc. and Prel Sc. Examination, standing alone in the first class of Botany and first in the third class of Zoology.

ONE OF THE GILCHRIST SCHOLARS of this year, Babu Ashutosh Gupta, does not intend to avail himself of his scholarship. It will, therefore, pass to the next in order of merit.

THE FOLLOWING telegram from the Home Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen to the Lord Mayor of London will no doubt be read with interest by our countrymen:

"Balmoral, 9-15 A. M.—I am desired by her Majesty the Queen to thank your Lordship for your telegram stating that the Indian Famine Fund now being raised at the Mansion-house already exceeds a quarter of a million sterling, and that your Lordship hopes and believes that it will largely increase. Her Majesty feels deeply the readiness with which the sufferings of her people in India have touched the hearts of her people at home."

This announcement was at once affixed to the walls of the Mansion-house and eagerly read by the passers by. The Lord Mayor, later on, read it publicly at the meeting of the Common Council, and it was ordered to be entered on the journals of the Council.

THE LORD MAYOR received the following communication, written at the request of the Grand Duchess of Hesse (Princess Alice):

"Darmstadt, Sep. 20.—My Lord,—The Grand Duchess of Hesse, entertaining a lasting attachment towards her native country, was deeply moved by the sad reports which came from the Queen's Eastern Empire; and Her Royal Highness's sympathies are fully shared by her husband, the Grand Duke, whose interest in everything that concerns the Queen and the people of Great Britain, is no less sincere. Their Royal Highnesses are anxious to send a small contribution towards the Indian Famine Relief Fund, which is being collected under your Lordship's auspices, and they have, therefore, directed me to forward the enclosed check of £50 for that purpose.

I have the honour to be your Lordship's obedient servant —DR. E. BECKER."

BABU PROTAPA CHUNDER RAI has undertaken a laudable task of reprinting Babu Kaliprosunno Sing's Bengali translation of the Mahabharatha and distributing it *gratis*. He now finds it difficult to carry on this gigantic work solely with his own means, and appeals for support to the charitably disposed, who care for a dissemination of a knowledge of our ancient classics.

A CORRESPONDENT at Somrah thus objects to the practice of steeping jute plants in the canal near it:

"The practice of macerating jute plants in small pools &c., in the villages is followed as before, but we regret to state that the cultivators have largely extended this year the said process of maceration even to the *Khal* below the villages Abdoolpoor, Paigachi, Jusra and Bankipore &c.,—the water of which *Khal* is solely used for drinking purposes—and the result is that a general epidemic of diarrhœa and dysentery has broken out not only in those villages, but also in Somrah and Sookreah, below which the said *Khal* extends. As the connection of the Khal with the main stream *Hugli* has of late been stopped in consequence of the drying up of the annual inundation, the *miasm* arising out of the said process is, it seems, a fruitful cause of the diseases above alluded to.

"In consequence of the want of any good potable tank water, the people of about 30 villages around us use the *Khal* water for drinking purposes; and ever since the Epidemic fever broke out in this part, the people, by an order of the authorities have been strictly prohibited from throwing dead bodies into the *Khal*—but alas! a much more pernicious practice has come into vogue, affecting the health of the people, so much so that 90 per cent. are suffering from the effects of diarrhœa and dysentery attended with fever. But we are at a loss to understand why the public health should be allowed to suffer for the benefit of jute cultivators."

BEPINMOHUN SEN.

THERE IS a deficit of over rupees 40,000 estimated on the maintenance and working of the Ceylon Telegraph Lines, during the present financial year.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Government of India have determined on a re-arrangement of the existing agency employed in the work of educational inspection in British Burmah. By this re-arrangement a Junior Inspector on a salary of Rupees 400 per month, is to be substituted for two of the nine Deputy Inspectors, the salary of each of whom is rupees 200 per mensem. No increase of expenditure is, therefore, involved. We understand, however, that the two abolished appointments will probably be revived, if it be found on experience that the interests of primary education suffer by the change.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Secretary of State, having considered certain suggestions made by Mr. Norman Lockyer (whose name is eminent in connection with the study of Solar Physics) on the subject of the Photoheliograph, now we believe at Roorkee, and having in view the fact that the study of the condition of the sun's disc in relation to terrestrial phenomena has become an important part of physical investigation, and that in no other country probably can such investigations be carried out with greater advantage than in India, has signified his intention of sending to this country a qualified photographer for a period of two years to obtain photographs of the sun's disc by aid of the above instrument. A competent photographer, who has been acting as Mr. Lockyer's assistant, has already been selected for the duty, and will probably arrive in India next month. The expense of the undertaking will be merely nominal, while the benefit to science will, it is believed, be great.

WEDNESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER.

WE HEARTILY welcome back Mr. H. L. Dampier, who has taken over charge from Mr. Ravenshaw. We believe Mr. Dampier will take Mr. Schalch's place in the Bengal Council. Mr. Ravenshaw reverts to his appointment of Commissioner of Orissa. His temporary connection with Calcutta will be gratefully remembered for the very cordial aid he has given to the Famine Relief movement.

IT HAS BEEN raining gravel in the neighbourhood of Aurungabad lately, at least so says a correspondent writing thence. "A few days ago the Sub-Inspector of Police of Daoodnagore sent a quantity of earth in a *hand* reporting that it had showered there for five minutes. On the 20th instant it similarly showered drops of earth at Nobeenugger and a few days ago at Aurungabad. The earth may be had in abundance if any physiologists require to examine it." Such things were not heard of before. The people look upon this gravel-rain as ominous.

ODIUM THEOLOGICUM has led to *argumentum baculum* in Lahore. It is stated that a Fakir lately arrived at Lahore from Jammu, and that in consequence of a religious discussion, which he provoked, an affray took place in which the Arya Somaj people were beaten. Lalla Mulraj, M. A., the President of the Arya Somaj, and a Gilchrist scholar, it is stated, were among the persons who were thus handled.

WHILE the Kanhirangat Temple in Kanhirangat Deshom, of Taliparamba Amshom, in Malabar was undergoing repairs, an ancient idol of gold, worth some Rs. 10,000, was discovered. The Madras Government has decided that the case does not come properly within the purview of the law relating to treasure trove, and as the idol was doubtless an object of worship, has directed that it be made over to the Uralers of the Kanhirangat Temple in which it was found, and to which it clearly belongs. This decision of Government has given great satisfaction to the people.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor General in Council has conferred the title of Maharaja upon the Raja of Tipperah as a personal distinction. The title should have been made hereditary.

THE BELLARY SPECTATOR says:

Several thousands of bags of rice were damaged in the railway compound, by the heavy rains that have fallen during the week, and the probable loss to the owners of the grain is estimated at something over a lakh of rupees. Not a day hardly passes now but that tens of thousands of rupees are lost in this way, and yet the railway authorities are altogether indifferent to the wants of the merchants who are swelling the Company's profits. Not a single shed—temporary or permanent—has as yet—in this fifteenth month of the famine—been erected for the storage of grain until taken delivery of, nor does the Company do the very least to protect the stocks as they come in, nor are the merchants allowed to cover their grain, which, the moment the train arrives, is thrown out of the waggons, indiscriminately, on the open yard, without tarpaulins or any other covering.

Why does not the Government take notice of this culpable neglect? Is this the way to stimulate private importation of rice?

ACCORDING to a telegram received by us yesterday decrease of numbers on State Relief in Bombay was 39,443. The imports by coasting vessels and rails average 2.553 tons From South Maharatta country it is reported that magnificent crops are suffering from excessive rain, but fine weather may yet render harvest successful. Elsewhere throughout the Bombay Presidency prospects are good.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Englishman* writes :

The following is the procedure of the proprietor of an Anglo-Bengali paper, better known for its scurrilous and personal attacks than for the wisdom of its articles. A copy, which may or may not contain some threatened or covert attack upon you, is sent to your address, and from that time you receive the paper regularly. You are, in fact, made a subscriber. A refusal to take the paper opens its columns to low, cowardly attacks upon you. I assure you I know one or two officials who take the paper rather than run the risk of being attacked by the individual who is supposed to be the Editor of this production. The proprietor of a native paper, written in Babooese adopts the same scandalous means of eking out its existence.

Such papers are a disgrace to the community. They ought to be gibbetted to infamy.

THURSDAY 1ST NOVEMBER.

IN ONE town alone, Dindigal, in the Madura district, there are at present three thousand women and children, whose husbands and male relatives have gone away and left them without any means of support. It is to cases of this sort that the attention of the famine relief committees should be specially directed.

WE ARE sorry to notice that Mr. H. B. Skrine, lately in charge of the Choadanga Sub-division, and at present employed in Madras, accidentally shot a native. The case was fully investigated by the Magistrate, and was proved to have been purely accidental. Mr. Skrine has given Rs. 300 to the man's widow. A similar accident once befell the late Chief Justice Norman.

THE DUKE OF AOSTA, second son of Victor Emmanuel, has entered holy Orders. He received the Pope's benediction by telegraph, as he was entering the chapel in which he was priested He is not the first of his House, who has embraced a religious life.

THE STAMP REVENUE has decreased in both Bengal and the N. W. Provinces Sir John Strachey made a clever bargain with the local Governments by raising the estimate at much higher figures than the actuals of previous years justified.

THE FOLLOWING letter has been addressed by the Duke of Buckingham to the Lord Mayor of London :

Government House Madras September 10 1877.

My dear Lord Mayor—I venture to express to your Lordship the heartfelt gratitude which already begins to pervade the mind of the native of this presidency for the exertions your Lordship has made and the response which has rewarded your kind interest. The emergency is indeed great. Realise the position of the English people with the quartern loaf ranging from 2s. 6d. upwards, and at the same time an utter scarcity of every green thing—of everything with which food can ordinarily be supplemented—and you may form some idea of the scarcity and the terrible position of the classes even above the poor laborers or cultivators. To see those classes aided, and, if possible, saved from falling into the abyss of pauperism, from which in all countries is so hard to emerge—is one of the principal objects I hope to see attained by the aid of English charity. Government may do much, but working necessarily under rule and regulation cannot do much that should be done—working side by side with a powerful organisation of private charity it can do much very much more than will be due to the mere amount of money extended. I have directed returns of the increasing distress and pressure in the various districts to be sent to your Lordship, and mortuary returns sent home officially disclose too plainly the sufferings of Southern India.—Believe me your Lordship's faithful.

BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor.

WE HAVE received the following telegraphic intelligence about the famine tracts. From Bombay : more favourable weather reported from Satara and Sholapur. From Madras:North East Monsoon has at length burst in following districts : Kishna, Nellore, Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah, Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Tinnevelly. Not yet reported as burst in Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot, and Ganjam. Doubtful in North Arcot, Godavery. From Mysore, rainfall at Bangalore, 2·46 inches, at Mysore, 1·45. Condition of crops in Mysore generally good, but Jowari in parts suffering from continued wet, ordinary rice at Bangalore sells at 12½ to 13 lbs. ragi, 18 to 19 lbs. per rupee. Rise in price said to be owing to reduced imports. Number on works 78478 being increase 5276 on last week, numbers on gratuitous relief 72838, being decrease 15919 or 18 per cent. on last week's numbers.

NEWS from Quetta, dated 29th October, states everything quiet and satisfactory as usual in Quetta, Khelat, and all those regions as far as Candahar. Candahar trade rapidly increasing in importance in consequence of security of trade routes through Beluchistan. Last week no less than 13 Kafilas numbering 656 Camels, besides large numbers of Ponies arrived at Quetta from Candahar, *en route* for Shikarpore, and 9 Kafilas numbering 662 Camels etcetera passed through Khelat for Candahar and Karachi.

FURTHER reduction of 200,000 in Madras relief number this week.

IT HAVING been brought to the notice of the Government of India that legal-tender copper coin is circulating this year at a discount in Southern India, to the injury of the poor, the Governor-General in Council by a Resolution in the Financial Department has directed the free exchange of silver for all such copper coin in parcels of the nominal value of not less than two rupees at every Treasury, Sub-Treasury and Currency Office throughout British India and in Mysore and Berar, and also (in anticipation of the consent of the Directors) at the Presidency Banks and their branches. It is further ordered that wherever large bodies of men are assembled on public works or otherwise, the Local authorities are to make special arrangements to supply silver on the spot in exchange for the copper coin which may be collected by the purveyors or foremen at such assemblages.

FRIDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER.

WE are informed that a new warrant of precedence was published on the 1st November, with a supplementary graded list of civil officers not reserved for members of the Covenanted Civil Service. The graded list includes first-class Deputy Comptroller-General, Deputy Secretaries to the Government of India, Deputy Surveyors-General, and Superintendents of Revenue Survey, Directors of State Railways, Inspectors of local offices of account. The second class, or number 72 of the warrant, includes the Chairman of the Port Trust of Calcutta, the Chairman of Town Council of Bombay, the Commissioners of Police in Madras and Bombay, Deputy Accountants-General, Deputy Commissioners of Districts and Settlements Deputy Directors-General of the Post Offices and Telegraphs, Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, Deputy Superintendents of Revenue, Topographical, and Trigonometrical Surveys, 1st grade Deputy Superintendent, Port Blair, Directors of Traffic, Construction, Telegraphs, Education, Officers in the first grade of Examiners of Accounts of Public Works, first-class and second-class and first-grade First Judges Presidency Small Cause Courts, Geological Officers, first grade, the Government Astronomer of Madras, the Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, Calcutta, the Superintendent of Marine Survey, the Superintendent of Inam Settlements Impore, the Superintendents of Revenue and Survey and Assessment, Bombay and Mysore, Superintending Engineers in the Public Works Department, and Under-Secretaries to the Government of India. Third class, or number 77 of the warrant, includes Assistant Secretaries to Government of India, Deputy Commissioner, Inland Customs, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, Deputy Directors of Revenue Settlements and Surveys, Madras, Deputy Superintendents of Revenue and Topographical and Trignometrical Surveys. In the second grade Education Officers of the second grade, Examiners of Accounts in the Public Works second class, second grade Executive Engineers, first grade Geological Officers in the second grade, the Inspector-in-Chief of Cotton Frauds in Bombay, Junior Judges in the Presidency Small Cause Courts, Presidency Magistrates, Registrars of the High Courts, and Chief Court of the Punjab, Settlement Officer in Sind, the Superintendent of the Indian Museum, Superintendents of Stamps and Stationery, Superintendents, Telegraph, first and second grades. The warrant is dated Balmoral, October 18th, 1876, and has been already published.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us from Kakinea :

"The arrangement for the transit of Goods from Julpaiguri to Attrai and vice versa being limited and temporary local merchants have not as yet been in a position to export and import their merchandize by the N. B. "State" Railway pending interchange of through traffic with the E. B. Railway. The Goods Tariff rate seems to be higher than any private Rail way Company in India."

WE ARE glad to notice that the Government of India appreciates the services rendered by the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha in connection with the Bombay Famine. His Excellency the Governor General in Council remarks : "Though the memorial expresses views not entirely in accordance with those recorded by the Government of India, it will receive, when the report of the Bombay Government is dealt with, all due consideration, coming as it does from a body who have rendered good service by obtaining and placing at the disposal of Government much useful information, and by the collection and distribution of the private charity of their countrymen for the relief of the destitute."

A NEW metal, to which it is proposed to give the name of *Davyum*, in honour of Sir Humphrey Davy, has, it is said, been discovered by Mr. Sergins Kern, of St. Petersburg. This new element was discovered in separating the metals rhodium and eridium from some platinum ores, and was isolated in the form of a hard, silvery metal, slightly ductile, extremely infusible, and having a density of 9385.

THE USUAL gathering of Positivists on the anniversary of the death of Auguste Comte, was held in the first week of last month in the Rue Monsieurable Prince, Paris. where his rooms are religiously preserved just as he left them. M. Pierre Laffitte delivered an address, in which he denounced scientific materialism, especially as exhibited in certain modern ethnological theories. Among those present were Mr. Frederic Harrison and Professor Beesly.

DR. BONNAFONT, the French Aurist, has it is said discovered a cure for deafness. A girl suffering from obstinate deafness had her tympanum trephined by means of a trocar, and an accompanying cannula, provided with small wings, which could be pushed about *ad libitum*, was left in the tympanum. The patient was then enabled to hear perfectly well.

SATURDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER.

THE PEKIN GAZETTE gives the following as an unfailing remedy in cases of opium poisoning :—"Take white hellebore, 5 grains ; honey 5 grains ; liquorice 5 grains ; sulphate of copper 2 grains ; crude rhubarb 1 ounce. First infuse the honey and sulphate of copper together, then boil the other ingredients, and mix the whole, which administer as a draught."

EVEN the *Pioneer* is moderating its tone against the Native Press. It does not want any "severely repressive course of action," but simply wishes the Government to keep its eyes open. We have no objection to that.

THREE municipalities in the Gonda District in Oudh have imposed heavy taxes on all partridges, hares, and pea fowl, brought for sale between the 1st of April and the 1st August. Have the Municipalities power to introduce a game-law by a side-wind like this ?

A CONTEMPORARY says, "we cannot compliment the Rev. Dr. Strachan on his suggestion that cloths given to the destitute peasantry in the Madras Presidency should have woven in them the words "A gift from the people of England." We have read in a Book that cannot be quite unknown to Dr. Strachan, that the left hand should not know what the right hand giveth, and further that it is not seemly to make an ostentatious show of one's alms-giving. Why should the poor go about with this badge of suffering staring every one in the face ?"

THE WAR and India Offices are considering the question as to the desirability of lessening the period of service for European troops in India, and proposals will, it is said, be made to Parliament on the subject next session. This means a further increase of army expenditure.

RECENTLY a man named Turner intruded in company with a European soldier, into the premises of a Parsee shop-keeper at Morar, who lived next door to him. They were seen by the shop-keeper and challenged, when they endeavoured to run away. The Parsee followed, and while retreating Turner shot at him with a gun which held in his hand. The Parsee escaped unhurt, but a servant who was standing by him received a brace of slugs in the fleshy part of his leg. Turner is under arrest.

IT HAS been ruled that the dual duties connected with the marine and the port of Calcutta, hitherto performed by the Master Attendant, are for the future to be separated. The administration of the marine service and the dockyard will be entrusted to a Superintendent of marine, and the local port and the other duties to a Port Officer. The appointment of Master Attendant has therefore been abolished. It is strange that in these days of financial pressure offices should be multiplied

A NEW system of School Examinations according to the *Pioneer* has been instituted in the North-West Provinces. The English school will not be examined departmentally as before, but an Anglo Vernacular middle-class examination will be held in the first week of December ; and only those boys who pass this examination will in future be allowed to study for the Calcutta University Entrance Examination in a Government or an aided school. Private students will also be allowed to compete for this examination. These examinations are so many impediments to English education. The University Entrance ought to be a sufficient test. It is everywhere preceded by a preliminary school test.

WE HAVE received an account of the first anniversary of the Native School of Music at Chundernagore, which is affiliated to Dr. Shourendra Mohun Tagore's Music School at Calcutta. The Chundernagore school we are glad to learn is prospering.

WE HAVE received the prospectus of a new periodical to be called the Aryan National Magazine. It is to be published in English, Hindi and Urdu,

Digitized with financial assistance from the National Archives of India on 07 August, 2017

THE DUKE of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England, has issued his warrants for the arms granted to Bombay by the Garter King of Arms. The motto is to be *Urbi prima in Indis.*

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following from Bhugorao in Central India:

"The Dasherah Festival of H. H. the Maharajah Holkar was celebrated with great pomp on the afternoon of the 16th current in a large and spacious plain at a distance of about 2 miles from the City of Indore. At about 4 P.M. the troops of H. H. about 10,000 in number including Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery began to make their appearance and stationed themselves on either side of a road, which passes through the middle of it. A little after 5 in the evening the arrival of H. H. the Maharajah was signified by the roaring of guns from the saluting battery. H. H. was preceded by a number of beautiful horses gorgeously decorated with gold and silver and each led by a respectable-looking groom, and a body of Mahratta Camel Sowars armed with Carabines, and followed by a Company of the Central India Horse. H. H. was seated on a large elephant with the two Princes on the right side and the Agent to the Governor General on the left, each on a separate elephant. A number of European gentlemen, who were invited by H. H. and all of whom were mounted on elephants, formed a part of the Company. After the performance of the usual ceremony in the place set apart for the purpose H. H. returned to his palace at about 7 P.M.

On account of a sufficient fall of rain have in the commencement of the current month, the prospects of the crops have undergone a thorough change and our anxieties about the threatened famine have been happily set at rest.

DR SHOURENDRA MOHUN TAGORE has received the following Diploma from Italy:

SOCISTA DIDASCALICA ITALIANA DIPLOMA.

The Italian Society Didascalica confers the title of Honorary Fellow on His Excellency Rajah Sourindro Mohun Tagore, in token of high esteem and respect.

The Society hopes that he will grant her his kind protection and contribute by all possible means to the furtherance of the moral object, which this Society has in view.

From the Society's premises,
ROMA, 25th of September, 1877,
The President,
COMMANDER PIETRO BERNARD.
Silarata.
PASQUALE COSTA,
Secretary.

THE DEATHS IN CALCUTTA during the week ending the 27th October numbered 289, of which 93 were from fever, 47 from diarrhœa and dysentery, 35 from cholera, 18 from tetanus, and the rest from other causes.

THE LATEST TELEGRAM, which we have received regarding the famine tracts, reports 640 tons daily average export of grain from Bengal and Burmah to Madras during the week ending October 31st. Madras report November third shows N. E. Monsoon well on, 5 inches rain fell on 1st and 2nd November against 8½ inches in all October.

WE ARE SORRY to record the death of another native gentleman in the prime of life. Babu Gopal Chunder Sircar, Deputy Magistrate, is dead. He was a highly meritorious officer. He wrote two elaborate and exhaustive Statistical Reports on Rungpore and Dinagepore, which the Government has published in the form of a volume.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Finance and Revenue Accounts and Statistics relating to the Finances of British India. Part II containing receipts and disbursements of each Presidency and Province from 1st May 1868 to 31st March 1876. 2. Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for 1876-77. 3. Report of the Kaist Kula Sungrukhini Sabha. 4. Kusum-Kanun—being a series of poetical pieces in Bengali—by Adhurlal Sen, B.A. 5. The Break of a Happy Dream—a poem in Bengali—by Upendra Nath Gangooly. 6. "Cleopatra"—a Poem in Bengali,—by Nobin Chunder Sen. 7. Messrs Scott & Co.'s Monthly Stock and Price list of Presses, types &c., for November 1877.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 28th October.—Suleiman Pasha under the 26th reports a skirmish with the enemy at Mansourkoi. The loss sustained by the Russians in the battle at Dubnik on the 24th was 2,500 men. The Grand Duke Nicholas on the 25th inspected the positions taken up by General Gourko at Dubnik. It is reported that Russian advanced guard has arrived near Silistria.

29th.—St Petersburgh papers state that negotiations for the capitulation of Kars have commenced and on the 25th an emissary from the Kars garrison came into the Russian camp for purpose of opening up negotiations. A Turkish official despatch confirms the junction of Ismail and Muktar's force, and farther states that they hold a strong position at Koprikoi, where they await the advance of the Russians.

29th.—The Hon'ble E. P. Thesiger has been appointed Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal in the place of the Right Hon'ble Sir E. P. Ampblett who has resigned. Lord Derby replying to a memorial from merchants engaged in trade with China, said he declines to publish the portion of Sir Thomas Wade's report relating to trade and which has been omitted from the blue book, because the Indian Government has the matter under consideration.

29th.—The French Ministry have tendered their resignation in order to leave Marshal MacMahon free. The Russians have captured Teliche on the road to Orchanie, the capture included seven companies of Turkish infantry, one Pasha, several officers and three guns. The Russians have appeared at Sistova behind Orchanie. Ghazi Ahmed Muktar telegraphs, under date of 27th instant, that the Russians are encamped at Azab, only three hours' distance from his entrenched position.

31st.—Alice Rhodes has received a free pardon. The Stanntons have been sentenced to servitude for life. A memorial signed by a number of influential persons, has been presented to Lord Derby, urging him to ratify the Chefoo Convention. Lieutenant-General Thomas Maitland Wilson, Colonel 63rd Regiment, has been appointed Colonel of the 95th. Lieutenant-General R. Waddy has been appointed Colonel of the 63rd Regiment. Suleiman Pasha has returned to Rustchuk. The Garrison at Kars having rejected terms of capitulation, the Russians are bombarding.

Paris 31st October.—At a Cabinet Council held to-day, it was resolved that no ministerial modification should take place before the opening of the Chamber of Deputies. The *Republique Francaise* states that unless the crisis is speedily terminated civil war is inevitable.

London, 1st November.—The Honorable Mr. Welch, of Pensylvania State, has been appointed United States Minister at the Court of Saint James, in succession to Mr. Pierrepont. Colonel William Dawkins, late of the Coldstream Guards, has been dismissed the service. The Montenegrins occupy the heights round Podgoritza, which place they menace. A Roumanian reconnoitring party has expelled the Turks from a redoubt near Rahowa, to the north-west of Plevna.

Berlin, 31st October.—The President of the German Parliament replying to a question, said the law forbidding the export of horses from Germany had been relaxed, but could not be altogether repealed whilst the German army was a possible contingency.

London, 1st November.—Advice from the seat of war in Armania state that, whilst the Turks were evacuating Hassankale, their rear guard was surrounded under cover of the darkness, and two battalions taken prisoners. The Russian loss in the engagement was trifling. Ghazi Ahmed Muktar is strongly entrenched at Devebayun to the east of Erzeroum.

3rd.—Chefket Pacha is fortifying himself at Kirazadagh on the Orchanie road. A large Russian force is assembled at Hassankale.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, *Bow-Bazar Street.*)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on *Thursday* the 8*th November* next, at 7 P. M.

Subject: What constitutes the musicality of Sound.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M D.
Honorary Secretary.

3rd November 1877.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 1877.

RETRENCHMENT AND REFORM.

THE Financial position of the Indian empire must be critical, indeed, when the Secretary of State publicly comes forward and says that he is willing to "endure a shilling income tax on behalf of India." This declaration has a two-fold meaning. It means that the people of India must be prepared for heavy taxation, when the Great Mogul is himself prepared to pay a five per cent income tax. It may also mean that as the Indian Income tax cannot reach Lord Salisbury, he may consent to a general reduction of salaries, which would also include him. In our humble opinion neither is desirable, but extensive retrenchments are quite feasible. If Lord Salisbury will put his shoulders to the wheel, boldly and resolutely, he may extricate the car of the Indian State from the rut into which it has fallen. The Government of India can do nothing without his Lordship's powerful support. But the retrenchments to be effected must be made on an extensive scale, if the Government really wishes to bring about an equilibrium between income and expenditure. Of course nothing should be done to impair the efficiency of administration, but we are satisfied that the scheme which we propose, without in the slightest degree detracting from administrative efficiency, would lead to a considerable saving. Our first suggestion is—reduce the number of local administrations. A good portion of civil expenditure has increased in consequence of the multiplication of local administrations. In some instances the additional establishments were needed in order to promote the development of local resources, but the object aimed at having been attained, the Government may now fitly reorganize the several local Governments. In our humble opinion it is not necessary to divide the Empire into so many petty States. There is so much homogeniety between certain provinces that they may be well united under one central authority. For instance we see no reason why there should be three separate Governments in Northern India, *viz.*, the Government of the North Western Provinces, the Punjab, and Oudh. The North Western Provinces and Oudh have been practically united, and the time has arrived for the incorporation of the Punjab with the Government of the North Western Provinces. If

Bengal with an area of 189,034 square miles and a population of about sixty-three millions can be successfully governed by one Lieutenant Governor, we do not see why a similar responsible ruler should not be able to carry on the administration of the North Western Provinces, Oudh and the Punjab, the aggregate area of which is 203,932 square miles, and population less than sixty millions Bengal until the separation of Assam comprised an area of 230,832 square miles and a population of about sixty-seven millions. It may be urged that the Sikh population of the Punjab differs from the Hindu population of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, but the Hindus of Delhi and Umballa have been put under the Punjab Government. Further, perhaps no two peoples of India differ so widely from each other as those of Bengal and Behar, and if the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal is competent to deal with them both, why cannot one Lieutenant Governor of the North India districts be equally competent to deal with the populations of the different districts? The civil and criminal laws, which govern the North Western Provinces, Oudh and the Punjab, are much the same; the revenue system does not materially differ, while the social influences at work are more or less allied. Special laws there are relating to the Punjab and Oudh, but so are there special laws relating to Bengal, Behar and Orissa. There is only one point in this amalgamation scheme, which requires grave deliberation—we mean frontier politics. We agree with our contemporary of the *Civil and Military Gazette*, who has discussed this question in detail, and who says: "The rapid advance of Russian influence and the spread of Russian intrigue in Central Asia, our own inevitable advance in Khelat and its consequences, Cabul intrigue, and Afreedie turbulence, all these influences tend to one common centre, the enhancement of interest and weight in all Frontier considerations." Our contemporary suggests the creation of a Frontier province with Sind included. "The separation of Sind from Bombay," he remarks, "which would reduce the country under that Government to limits almost too contracted to form a Presidency, might be compensated by incorporating the Central Provinces with the Bombay Governor's territory. The newly created Frontier province would have to be divided into two great portions, the Northern and Southern Divisions, each under a Commissioner subordinate to the Chief at Peshwar. The line of demarcation between Sind and the Punjab would probably need re-adjustment, so that the Beloochee tribe within one district and the Pathans of the other might be under distinct supervision. The office of the Commissioner of the Southern Division could however be easily made to include the duties of Governor General's Agent in Beloochistan, while the Commissioner of the Northern Division could readily assume the political duties arising in connection with all the Pathan tribes to the North-West." The details we leave the Government to consider, but we submit the creation of a Frontier Province would deprive the Punjab Government of its specialty, and the rest of the Punjab may therefore be fitly incorporated with the North Western Provinces. Such an amalgamation would lead to considerable savings. The salaries of the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretaries, the Judges of the Chief Court, the Financial Commissioner, the Director of Public Instruction, the Inspector Generals of Police, Prisons, and Registration, in fact all the departmental heads constituting a local Government, with their establishments, would be saved. Perhaps one Judge may have to be added to the High Court of the North Western Provinces to meet the increase of work in consequence of the amalgamation, and the Secretariat slightly strengthened. Otherwise the existing staff of the North Western Provinces Government ought to suffice for the ordinary work of administration in the same manner as the administrative staff of Bengal. We need not dilate upon these points, because they are so obvious. We have been anticipated by our contemporary of the *Civil and Military Gazette* who says, that if Sind be taken out of the Bombay Presidency, the Central Provinces ought to be annexed to it. Then we are of opinion that Assam ought to be restored to Bengal. The

creation of Assam into a Chief Commissionership has done no good whatever. Neither the planters nor the people are satisfied with it. We have received evidence from all sides that Assam was much better governed by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal than it is now by the Chief Commissioner. We may go into details hereafter, but we are satisfied from the enquiries we have made that the restoration of Assam to Bengal will not in the least impair the efficiency of administration. The savings to the Imperial Fund from the proposed amalgamation scheme may be estimated as follows:

SAVINGS.

(Compiled from the Finance and Revenue Accounts of India Part II. 1877.)

		£	
OUDH.			
Chief Commissioner	...	5212	
Secretariat	...	10250	
Judicial Commissioner	...	6045	
			21507
CENTRAL PROVINCES.			
Chief Commissioner	...	5387	
Secretariat	...	8712	
Judicial Commissioner	...	5695	
			19794
PUNJAB.			
Lieutenant Governor and Staff ..		11944	
Secretariat	...	17688	
Financial Commissioner	...	11917	
Chief Court	...	19492	
			60539
ASSAM			
Lump sum	... .		30000
Grand total	...	£	131840

The above statement does not of course represent the whole of the savings. Several departments have been transferred to the Provincial Fund such as the Jails, the Police, Stamps, Registration, Education, and corresponding savings will be effected in those departments. We think we may safely calculate that after providing for the necessary paraphernalia of the new Frontier Commissionership, and strengthening the Secretariat and High Court of the North-Western Provinces, a net saving of twenty-five lacs of rupees per annum may be effected.

II.

The Public Works Department is another department, which admits of extensive reductions. In previous issues we pointed out certain retrenchments, but the Minister of Works seems to be quite indifferent. For more than three years Sir Andrew Clarke has been in office, but what has he done? The stream is flowing without let or hindrance. The Public Works establishment covers at present 2½ per cent. of the whole revenue of the empire. But if the Government of India will be but true to itself, and will insist upon the enforcement of its own Resolution of the 10th September 1874, a reduction of a quarter of a million per annum can be effected at once without diminishing the number of the Executive Divisions. The tendency of the Department is unfortunately to reduce the subordinate establishments, and to make a corresponding increase in the Assistant Engineers' grade with the view of providing for the Cooper's Hill men. We have now at a rough guess an excess of 144 Engineers and 139 Assistant Engineers. If Sir Andrew Clarke is at all alive to his duty, he ought to set his face first against the Cooper's Hill College. Then considerable reductions may be made by amalgamating the Military Works Branch, and the Irrigation and Provincial Branches by putting them all under one Chief Engineer for each province, who will be quite competent to exercise due supervision over the several departments. We give below the details of our scheme:

Comparative statement of cost of Establishment.

	Present	Rs.	Rs.
Chief Engineers	... 15 at	2066⅔	31,000
Superintending Engineers	... 48 at	1350	64,800
Executive Engineers	... 392 at	712½	2,79,300
Assistant Engineers	... 533 at	370	1,97,210
Subordinates	... 772 at	130	1,00,360
		Total	6,72,670
Office Establishment.			
Chief Engineers	... 15 at	3000	45,000
Superintending Engineers	... 48 „	1200	57,600
Executive Engineers	... 233 „	650	1,44,950
			2,47,550
Travelling for 988 officers and 772 subordinates at Rs. 75 and 80 respectively	...		97,260
Central Establishment	...		1,00,000
Grand total per mensem	...		11,17,480
Ditto ditto per annum	...		1,34,09,760

Proposed.

Chief Engineers	... 13	at	2066⅔	26,867
Superintending Engineers	... 45	„	1350	60,750
Executive Engineers	.. 248	„	712½	1,76,700
Assistant Engineers	... 394	„	370	1,45,780
Subordinates	... 772	„	130	1,00,360
				5,10,457
Chief Engineers	... 13	at	3000 =	39,000
Superintending Engineers	... 45	„	1200 =	54,000
Executive Engineers	... 233	„	650 =	1,44,950
				2,37,950
Travelling allowance for 700 officers and 772 subordinates at Rs. 75 and 80 respectively ..				75,660
Central Establishment			...	1,00,000
Grand total per mensem			...	9,24,067
Ditto ditto per annum			...	1,10,88,804

It will be seen from the above that the difference in cost will be about a quarter of a million, if the present number of executive Divisions be kept intact. We give a further detailed statement to shew how the scheme we suggest may be carried out:

Provinces.	Chief Engineer		Superintending Engineers.		Executive Engineers.		Asst. Engineers.		Subordinates.		No. of Divisions.
	Present Establishment.	Proposed Establishment.	Present Establishment.	Proposed Establishment.	Present Establishment.	Proposed Establishment.	Present Establishment.	Proposed Establishment.	Present Establishment.	Proposed Establishment.	
Bengal Provincial branch.	1	1	5	4	33	19	30	30	78	60	17
Do. Irrigation do.	1	1	4	4	30	19	43	30	101	60	17
N. W. P. Provincial do.	1	1	3	3	75	15	43	24	63	49	14
Do. Irrigation.	1	1	4	4	34	23	50	35	49	70	20
Punjab Provincial	1	1	2	2	20	12	25	19	18	88	11
Do. Irrigation	1	1	4	4	84	21	48	34	59	67	19
Central Provincial	1	0	1	1	8	7	10	11	18	20	6
British Burmah	1	1	2	2	10	13	17	16	30	31	9
Mysore and Coorg	1	1	1	1	13	12	18	19	31	31	11
Assam	1	0	1	0	5	6	6	9	17	17	6
Hyderabad	0	0	0	0	9	4	9	6	22	14	4
Central India	1	0	1	1	9	6	9	9	23	17	5
Rajpootna	0	0	1	1	6	7	4	11	10	20	6
Andamans	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	3	1
Simla Imperial Circle	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	3	1	6	1
State Railways	3	3	1	1	103	53	161	85	149	163	47
Military works	2	2	1	1	38	32	70	51	101	101	29
	15	13	48	45	892	248	533	394	772	772	223

There are altogether 223 Executive Divisions. *i. e.* 1 Chief Engineer to every 15 Divisions, and 1 Superintendent Engineer over 4·7 Divisions. There are 1·75 Executive and 2·4 Assistant Engineers and 3·5 Subordinates on the average to each Division. We have fixed the proposed scale by allowing 10 per cent. the Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineer in excess over the number of Divisions. Such a distribution of the strength of the department, we are satisfied on enquiry in reliable quarters, will not in the least impair its efficiency. We have made the above estimate without including the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, the figures of which are not before us. If the saving without those Presidencies comes to about a quarter of a million, the shears applied to those provinces should certainly yield a good round sum.

III.

Minor reductions may also be effected. For instance it had been long contemplated to amalgamate the Calcutta Collectorate with the office of Stamps and Stationary. As it is said that Mr. Mackenzie, the present Collector of Calcutta, an officer who has served the Government well and long, is about to retire, why should not the present opportunity be taken to effect the amalgamation in question? An energetic officer like Mr. J. B. Roberts we feel confident would be able to carry on the duties of both the offices with efficiency. An addition of Rs. 500 to the salary of the superintendent of the united offices would give a saving of Rs. 700 a month. Some reduction in establishment may also be effected. Then some of the smaller districts might be absorbed. In the next place we think the judicial and ministerial establishments ought to be revised. There is great disparity in the number of officers and in their pay in the judicial and ministerial establishments of several districts. The staff of covenanted assistants ought also to be revised. We think that for a time the recruiting of the Covenanted Service may be stopped with great advantage. Thus we are told that in some office, notably in the Bengal Office, the famine establishment entertained in 1874 is continued to this day. This ought to be looked into, and all extra establishments ought to be lopped off. A revision of the system of work might also lead to considerable relief. At present there is much waste of time and energy.

In this way the Government may we believe at once effect considerable retrenchments and reform. Taking the reductions at the lowest figure there will be a saving of at least half a million per annum under the several heads indicated above. But nothing can be done if the Government allows itself to be swayed by personal considerations. The question is not who should be spared or not, but whether the office, irrespective of the incumbent, is absolutely necessary or not. The empire is sure to drift into bankruptcy, if the Government does not take the warning in time. The policy of meeting every deficit by loans and additional taxation is unsound, injudicious, and unstatesman-like. Desperate diseases require desperate remedies. If it happens with a private individual, that he cannot make the two ends meet, what does he do?—he at once cuts down his expenditure; if he fails to do that he goes to wreck and ruin. The same truth holds good with the State. Our Government must boldly meet the financial crisis in the face. It will commit a serious blunder, if it only resorts to additional taxation, to make up the threatened deficit. It ought to satisfy the taxpayers that it has exhausted all means of economy, but if it still wants funds, they will cheerfully submit to additional imposts. But to subject them to fresh and heavy taxation without enforcing economy would open the Government to the reproach of violating its primary obligation to the people.

THE REVOLUTION IN MADRAS.

THE REVOLUTION in Madras, as we had expected, has attracted attention in England. Lord Lytton, in inaugurating his famine policy in Madras, commenced by summarily deposing the Madras Council in so far as the administration of the Famine was concerned. In this sweeping measure he had ostensibly the support of the Governor of Madras. The Duke of Buckingham acted wisely by serving the Government of India loyally. The ready obedience which His Grace has rendered to the Viceroy has enhanced the responsibility of the Government of India. It could not, however, be denied that the crisis was imminent in Madras and required prompt action. It might be a matter of future enquiry whether the break-down of the Madras system of famine administration was due to the weakness and incapacity of the Madras Council or to an unhealthy friction between it and the Government of India. All the papers on the subject will doubtless be laid before Parliament, and the public will then be in a position to pronounce their opinion. But the Viceroy acted from a profound conviction that the Madras Council was a clog, and that when the fate of millions was trembling in the balance all personal considerations must give way. Entertaining this opinion, we believe, His Lordship inaugurated the Revolution in Madras.

Whether the Revolution had the sanction of law is another question. The *Times* says, "whether Lord Lytton has taken this considerable step of his own motion, or has acted with the support of the Viceregal Council, it is alike

illegal. Parliament at home has ordained the way in which the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay shall be governed, and the Viceroy, with or without his Council, cannot upset the arrangements thus prescribed, even though Bombay and Madras Councillors should consent to sacrifice themselves at his pleasure. "The Members of Council appointed under the Indian Councils Act have no power to divest themselves of the responsibilities they have sworn to administer, nor has the Government of India the power to override the provisions of an Act of the British Parliament." These sentences express truths so self-evident that we look with curiosity for the excuses which may be offered in extenuation of what has been done." The excuses are, however, patent. The administration of the Famine affairs in Madras had not proved effective. It is true that the Madras Government had done its best to collect information, to organize measures of relief, and to assist the suffering population, but distress and death were increasing. The accounts which the Bengal officers deputed to Madras gave were by no means creditable to the local Government. It was said that there was no method, no organization, no system; that money was poured out like water, but that no substantial relief was given to the people. We could not say how far these statements were correct, but this was the opinion of many Bengal officers employed in Madras. If the facts were true, they proved only the incompetency of the officers, who were in the ascendant in the Madras administration, and not the inefficiency of the system of Government. Our own opinion is that if there were two or three men about the Madras Government with a clear vision, a strong head, and a ready and able pen, the Madras Government would not have shewn those signs of weakness, which were laid at its doors. Possibly Lord Lytton found it difficult to replace the men, who were the source of weakness of the Madras Government, and so His Lordship substituted an Autocracy in lieu of the Triumvirate. These are probably the "excuses," which the *Times* seeks for the justification of the *coup d'Etat*.

But the *Times'* correspondent, ANGLO-INDIAN, goes further. He writes: "We feel only too certain that this sudden shifting from triumvirate to autocracy portends something more than disinterested assistance in a crisis. Long experience has taught us to fear these gift-bearing Greeks. Behind the diplomatic mask of the poet Ambassador we discern only too clearly the sinister features of Bengal officialdom. It is easy to understand that the people of the City of Palaces lift up their voices against a system which gives to an unimportant town like Madras a Governor and Council, and gives to them but a Lieutenant Governor subordinate to the Viceroy." The writer is mistaken when he says that Bengal is jealous of Madras or that it is the Bengal influence, which is working mischief in the Supreme Council. There is not one "Bengali" in the Vice-regal Executive Council, and there is but one "Bengali" in the India Secretariats. The Government of India is thoroughly saturated with the North West and Punjab leaven, and Bengal feels its baleful influence. The correspondent smells danger afar. He says:

"What will be their argument six months hence, when the famine is over and the country in her normal state? Will they not say, "If the Governor can without Council face the most awful calamity that has attacked India since the Mutiny, what advantageth him his Council in less troublous time?" Will they not bring forward economy—that most misused of pretexts—as a reason for abolishing Local Governments and local Commanders-in-Chief? Alas! they will. But, Sir, the remedy is to level the other Provinces up, not to level us down. The greatest curse of India's many curses is centralization—a demon that requires all religions, all races, all climates to be ignored and demands that every individual from North to South shall be cast in the Bengal mould; that every department, every project, shall be subjected to the Procrustes of the Maharatta Ditch. Decentralization—decentralization—and again decentralization, is the cure for half of India's evils."

The *Times* takes up the cue of its correspondent. The leading journal says: "The argument drawn from the removal of Famine measures from the jurisdiction of the Council of a Presidency is easily extended to support an abolition of the Council. Why should it be retained, if at the time of trial it is found to be a useless incumbrance on the despatch of business? Promptitude and efficiency are at all times to be desired; and if it is remarked that the setting aside of the Madras Councillors was in this case the result of the intervention of Lord Lytton as a *Deus ex machina*, the answer is forthcoming that the Viceroy will always be able to extend to the Presidencies the supervision he now gives the North-West Provinces and the Punjab. The change temporarily made for the improvement of the Famine administration in Madras is thus made the means of extending indefinitely the centralization of government in India." We doubt whether there was any ulterior object in view when the Revolution was introduced in Madras. It was a temporary expedient for meeting a temporary calamity. But we should not be surprised if its scope should be extended. We quite agree with ANGLO-INDIAN that the tendency of the Government of India is centralization, though nominally there has been a decentralization of finance in certain branches. This decentralization of finance is simply *ticcadari*. The revenues of the Government of India have been farmed out to the local Governments, which must make good a certain increase, and the result is that the local Governments have been converted into so many rack-renters. Of course a certain amount of local freedom has been accorded to them, but what does that signify to the people, when it is accompanied with increased taxation and suffering? The candle of taxation is burning at both ends—both the Government of India and the local Government are taxing the people, the one for imperial and the other for provincial purposes, though the two properly analyzed mean the same things.

The *Times* thus delivers itself on the Indian system of administration:

"We have no desire to pronounce any final or conclusive judgment on the question whether the comparative independence of the Governments of Madras and Bombay should be maintained as it now exists. "ANGLO-INDIAN" writes stoutly in defence of it, and though he writes, as we have said, from Madras and with the bias of a Madrassee, it must be conceded that the abolition of the Presidencies is not a step to be taken indirectly and without a complete examination of its expediency. We should be disposed to say for ourselves that Mr. BRIGHT was right when he declared long ago that decentralization, and not centralization, was the change of government needed in India. The arguments of experience and the weight of authority point in this direction. It may be easy to attach too much importance to the complements of local administrators, yet it is impossible to remark the minuteness of the supervision exercised over, for instance, the Government of the North-West Provinces without coming to the conclusion that it would be better for the Provinces, as well as a relief to the Viceroy in Council, if a local Government were set up, with larger functions and greater authority than the Lieutenant-Governor possesses. All that we desire at present, however, is that the illegal step taken at Madras shall not pass without protest as a preparation for the extinction of the Presidencies and the complete subordination of their Administrations to the Viceroy at Calcutta. There can be no more difficult question of practical politics than to regulate the limits of central and local authority in India, to apportion the functions of government between the Central Supervising Power and the Local Administration. But, without pressing strongly our belief that much may be wisely done in stimulating local responsibility, we may at least protest that nothing should be rashly done to diminish it.

The *Times* thus favours Mr. Bright's dream. For our part we are inclined to think that the present triple system of Government is not needed in the existing circumstances of the country. England has been drawn much nearer India by steam and electricity, and practically she governs this country from the Westminister Hotel. As matters now go, the Governor General can scarcely move one inch without "wiring" the Secretary of State. When such is the case, is it necessary to maintain the expensive and somewhat inconvenient tube, the Government of India? Why cannot the Secretary of State govern India direct through the agency of a federation of local Governments? This is a question which we submit England will have to consider sooner or later.

MR. FAWCETT ON THE FAMINE.

"THE sightless champion of India" has spoken out on the Indian Famine. And whenever he speaks he gives no uncertain sound. He was quite right when he said that the munificent charity of the English nation is received "with profound gratitude by the Indian people, and is calculated to link the rulers and the ruled by the bonds of a closer and kindlier attachment." Yes, the people of India are grateful beyond measure, but they earnestly hope that the sympathy of the English nation will not vanish after the present calamity is over, that it will abide and expand. He strongly impressed upon his audience the responsibilities of the English nation to India. He said: "I think we cannot too constantly bear in mind that we, as a nation, have something more to do besides aimsgivings, that we shall not discharge the great responsibility we have taken upon ourselves in assuming the Government of India unless we are prepared resolutely to face and, if possible, successfully grapple with some of the considerations which the recurrence of these families in our Indian Empire suggest." The frequency of the Famines, Mr. Fawcett argued, was a matter of serious concern. "Within the last ten years," he remarked, "India has been visited by no less than four famines. In 1866 the famine in Orissa swept away a million of our fellow creatures. In 1869 another famine occurred in Northern India. In 1874 the famine in Behar led to an expenditure of 8½ millions—an expenditure which India could ill afford, and which sorely taxed her resources. And now there is a famine in Bombay, in Madras, and in some of the native States, which is more severe and is likely to involve a greater sacrifice of life and treasure than any of its predecessors. I do not wish to indulge in gloomy forebodings about the future, but can we feel any security that what has happened during the past ten years may not recur during the next ten years? Are any measures being adopted—and this is a question which the English public are bound ceaselessly to press upon their Government—either to prevent the recurrence of these famines or to provide beforehand remedies which, should they occur, will mitigate their intensity?" Yes, but what is the cause of this greater frequency of famines in India of late years? They were few and far between before. Then notwithstanding all seeming prosperity why are the people not able to withstand the calamity even for one year? The failure of a single crop paralyzes and pauperizes them. Mr. Fawcett with his usual earnestness exclaimed: "Can any state of things be imagined which more deserves the grave and anxious consideration of the English people? Lord Derby is the last man to be supposed of indulging in exaggeration. No one is in a better position to judge than he is of the momentous importance of the great issues which are being fought out in Eastern Europe, but he, speaking with the authority of one who is now Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and who has been Secretary of State for India, recently said, in a speech he made at Liverpool, that he looked upon the Indian famine as "a graver matter than what is called the Eastern question," and he continued, "it is all the more so because, unhappily, we have no security that this calamity which is pending now will be an isolated occurrence." When, therefore, those who hold the highest official positions in India and England come forward and tell me that these Indian famines cannot be regarded as isolated occurrences, but that they are certain to recur, the question is brought home to us with irresistible force, "Can nothing be done?" Are we to resign ourselves to blank and helpless despair? Are we to look upon these famines as visitations, like the falling avalanche or a furious hurricane, too stupendous either to be resisted or controlled? The answer which can be given to the question seems to involve nothing less than the future of our Indian Empire. (Hear, hear.)" And what will be the fate of the empire, if famines break out at the present rate? Mr. Fawcett seems to think that if they cannot be prevented they ought to be provided against. And the best means of effecting such a provision is to enforce rigid economy: On this point Mr. Fawcett thus held forth:

Regarding the subject for a moment from no higher point of view than that of finance, it is only too certain that nothing but national bankruptcy can be in store for India if every three or four years she has to bear the enormous outlay which these famines throw upon her (Hear, hear.) As I have already said, it is not more than four years since at least £8,500,000 was spent on the Behar famine, and it has been stated by those who are competent to express an opinion that the cost of the present famine to India cannot be less than £10,000,000, and will not improbably be as much as £14,000,000. Such a charge would be a serious one to bear if it were thrown upon the revenues of our own country, but

any one who reflects for a moment upon the present position of Indian finance must know that such an expenditure, serious as it would be for England, cannot continue to be borne by India without bringing upon her the dire calamity of national insolvency. (Hear, hear.) In order adequately to appreciate the gravity of what is now occurring in India it is necessary to dwell for a moment or two upon the remarkable contrast between her financial position and that of this country. If any year some misfortune should happen to England necessitating an outlay beyond our ordinary expenditure of eight or ten millions, the money could without difficulty be provided by imposing an additional Income-tax of 2d. or 3d. in the pound and by making a slight addition to the tax levied upon some article of general consumption, such as tea, tobacco, or spirits. But there appears to be no power in India of obtaining increased revenue by increased taxation. The only article of general consumption which can be taxed is salt and salt has been taxed to the uttermost. One who held a high position in India not long since said that he would rather lose his right hand than be a party to the increase of the Salt Duty. (Applause). Sometimes it is said, why not impose an Income-tax in India? But those who make such a suggestion seem to forget, even if such a tax were suited to India, how impossible it is to provide by it for such an expenditure as that now being incurred on famine relief. (Hear, hear.) So extraordinary is the difference between the wealth of England and of India, that although the population of India is seven times greater than that of England, yet an Income-tax in India is only one-tenth as productive as it is in England. Our present Income-tax of 2d. in the pound yields an annual revenue of about four millions; an Income-tax of the same amount when imposed in India did not produce more than £400,000. Not only, therefore, is the Income-tax a most feeble resource for adding to the revenue of India, but there are such manifold abuses connected with its collection, and the tax is so entirely unsuited to the Indian people, that nothing but extreme necessity can justify a resort to it. (Applause.) So strongly was this felt by Lord Canning, one of the best Governor-Generals that India ever had (hear, hear), that he once declared he would far sooner run the risk of reducing the European Army in India by one half than incur the danger which might result from the discontent which the imposition of an Income-tax would produce. In India there is no reserve from which exceptional expenditure can be provided, no additional revenue can be obtained by increased taxation, and the consequence is that when any extra strain is put upon her resources every shilling of the money required has to be obtained by increased borrowing. But it is not necessary to have profound acquaintance with the intricacies of finance to see what must be the end of such a state of things. There is not a man of business in this room who does not perfectly well know that the day of reckoning must sooner or later come: as it is with individuals, so it is with States; it is not more certain that winter succeeds summer or night follows day than it is that insolvency will ensue if recurring expenditure cannot be met out of ordinary income."

The extract is long, but it will amply repay perusal. What Mr. Fawcett says comes to the bosoms of all thinking Indians. He is opposed to any aid to India from the imperial exchequer of England, and we agree with him. We hold that India, however poor, is quite able to pay her own way, if England will be but just to her. As Mr. Fawcett remarked: "Above all things required in the government of India is greater care and greater thrift in the management of her finances. Hitherto the grave mistake has been too frequently made of spending her money as if she were not one of the poorest countries in the world. The consequence has been that her entire system of government is too costly, and, just the same as with an individual who has been living beyond his means. Her entire scale of expenditure ought to be revised." Mr. Fawcett continued: "At no previous time, except, perhaps, in the days of the Mutiny, did India occupy so great a share of public attention. The keen and active interest in India which is now taken is sure, if it continues, to make itself felt in the House of Commons, and may be turned to the utmost possible advantage." We say *ditto*. If India is to be saved, it can be saved only by the House of Commons. Mr. Fawcett thus marked out the field of economy:

"In the very closing hours of the last Session a scheme for Army retirement and promotion was hurried with indecent haste through Parliament. It has been calculated that the charge which this scheme will throw upon India will not be less than ten million pounds, and yet we have been so recklessly prodigal of Indian money that a scheme with a high hand was passed without ever having been submitted to the Government in India. It was useless to protest and remonstrate. The English public had not then been aroused to the critical position of Indian finance, but in the present state of English public opinion I think it would be difficult for any Government or any Parliament to display a similar carelessness with regard to the interests of India. What I have been describing can by no means be regarded as exceptional; it is typical of what has again and again happened in reference to India. No language is strong enough to describe the extravagance of the Army expenditure in India. The Indian Government, as you are no doubt aware, is the owner of the greater portion of the land. The cultivator, instead of paying rent, as in our own country, to private individuals, pays it in the form of land revenue to the Government. The amount which is yielded by this land revenue, after allowing for the cost of collection is about £19,000,000; seven-eights of this entire sum, or, in other words, seven-eighths of the rent of the greater part of the land of India, is in a time of profound peace each year spent upon the Army. And what makes the matter the more serious is that this charge is steadily and rapidly increasing. Sir John Strachey says, in a speech to which I have already referred—"There has lately been a serious increase of charge in the Army." He says this is a "cause of grave anxiety, over which the Government of India has comparatively little control." But if this increase of expenditure cannot be controlled by the Government of India, what does this mean but that the authorities at home are responsible for it? And it is in your power and in the power of the constituencies such as this to control these authorities. I have often heard it said by those who are competent to express an opinion that if India had not been saddled with our costly military system, if the Army Amalgamation Scheme had not been carried out, at least three millions might be annually saved in Indian military expenditure, without diminishing in the slightest degree the efficiency or the strength of the Indian Army. This is one of the many subjects connected with India to which the House of Commons is bound to direct earnest and prompt attention. (Hear hear.)"

Mr. Fawcett then laid much stress upon irrigation. This is a most important subject, and we hope it will not be disposed of hastily. Irrigation is certainly necessary, but we would prefer the old Indian system of well irrigation to canal irrigation. It is a pity that in the relief works undertaken in Madras and Mysore sufficient attention has not been paid to the digging of wells.

FORESTS AND RAINFALL.

THE periodic occurrence of drought has drawn the attention of Government to the necessity of conserving Indian forests. No less a personage than the late Sir William Denison, whilst Governor of Madras, thus wrote on the subject:

"The southern peninsula of India has been or is being denuded, not only of its forests but also of its jungles, its brushwood, its groves, its trees. The denudation has been, as I understand, going on near the sources and the upper courses of the many rivers which water the country. This, perhaps, is being in some degree checked. But with the progress of coffee planting, and with the assertion of communal rights on behalf of the people, the utmost vigilance will be needed to keep it within bounds. If it were to proceed unchecked, there would be imminent danger of the rivers running dry by reason of the catchment basins and the drainage areas near their sources being rainless. And as these rivers supply the great canal systems, this danger has only to be mentioned in order to be felt. The same argument applies in a lesser degree to the tanks or lakes which are second only to the canals in usefulness for irrigation. It has already been seen how precarious is the position of these reservoirs, even with one year's drought. The progress of the country causes the price of timber and of firewood to rise. The introduction of Railways has, in the absence of any local coal-mines, greatly augmented the demand for fuel. Strong temptations are thus inevitably offered to the people at large to fell, cut and lop reckless; to bring every log, stump and stick to market; to dig out the very roots of the jungle, so stopping any chance of reproduction, without thought for the future. There are stories to be heard everywhere of groves and hedgerows and scattered trees being cut for sale. In the midst of cultivated tracts there are to be seen bare, sterile hillsides, said to have been forest-clad within living memory. In such localities the climate is supposed to have changed for the worse. Beyond the Ghat mountains, in Bellary and Kurnool, the treeless, shrubless aspect of the country is as wonderful as it is melancholy. These are the very districts where famine has been occasionally epidemic, and where scarcity is almost endemic. Any thoughtful spectator must perceive that, according to all meteorological experience, and to the almost certain teachings of proved fact, these fine districts were not destined by nature to be the prey and sport of famine or scarcity, but have been rendered subject to these calamities by the thoughtless action of man. Even the numerous groves planted in the last generation by the great Collector Mr. Robertson, whose name is still a house-hold word, were made over many years ago to the villagers, and have been mostly cut down. Trees, jungle and forests must indeed, be thinned and cut for the use of man; but they need never be exhausted, and something might always be left for reproduction."

The above is true not only of Madras but also of the other Presidencies. In Bengal the denudation of forests has equally affected the rainfall. Even the course of rivers has been influenced by the capricious removal of trees. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should take means for the protection of the country. Accordingly, we observe, a Bill has been introduced in the Governor General's Council for the management and preservation of Government forests. The Secretary of State has issued the following instructions on the subject:

"Her Majesty's Government are, as you are aware, fully impressed with the importance of the adoption of efficient measures for preserving the forests of India, whilst they admit also the necessity of those measures being so framed as to interfere as little as possible with private rights, which may have grown up on behalf of villages or individuals. On the other hand, it must be remembered that as civilisation advances these rights become less and less necessary to the cultivators, and are found frequently incompatible with the superior rights of the whole community, among whom the cultivators themselves obtain advantage in other ways from the restriction of their ancient privileges. The change to this state of things must be gradual, and so timed as to make the transition as little onerous as may be to those who have held such privileges. In the instance before us it must be remembered that the absolute concession of these privileges would, as a rule, render the effective preservation of the forests impossible, and, moreover, that this is not an object of private import, but is undertaken by Government for the benefit of the whole community.

"It may be added that all the measures already adopted for several years past must have tended to prepare the minds of the inhabitants of the villages for a change of the nature indicated."

The only question which it is necessary for us to keep in view is that private rights be not arbitrarily interfered with. Where the forests belong to Government, it has the absolute right to controul them, but where they belong to private individuals, and it is considered in the public interest to preserve them, in other words to deprive the owners of their rights and privileges, due compensation ought to be paid to them. The provisions on this point are as follows:

The local Government may from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, regulate or prohibit in any forest or waste land—

(*a*) the breaking up of land for cultivation;

(*b*) the grazing of cattle;

(*c*) the firing or clearing of the vegetation;

when such regulation or prohibition appears necessary for any of the following purpose:—

first.—For protection against storms, winds, rolling stones, floods, and avalanches;

second.—For the preservation of the soil on the ridges and slopes, and in the valleys, of hilly tracts, the prevention of landslips and of the formation of ravines and torrents, and the protection of land against erosoin, or the deposit thereon of sand, stones or gravel;

third.—For the maintenance of a water-supply in springs, rivers and tanks;

fourth.—For the protection of roads, bridges, railways and other lines of communication;

fifth.—For the preservation of the public health;

and may alter or cancel such notification.

The Local Government may, for any such purpose, construct at its own expense, in or upon any such forest or waste-land, such works as it thinks fit.

Provided that no such notification shall be made or work begun until after the issue of a notice to the owner of such forest or land, calling on him to shew cause, within a reasonable period to be specified in such notice, why such notification should not be made or work constructed, and until his objections (if any) and evidence he may produce in support of the same have been heard by an officer duly appointed in that behalf, and have been considered by the Local Government.

In case of neglect of, or wilful disobedience to, any regulation or prohibition under section thirty-five, or if the purposes of any work to be constructed under that section so require, the Local Government may, after notice in writing to the owner of such forest of land, and after considering his objections (if any), place the same under the control of a Forest officer, and may declare that all or any of the provisions of this Act relating to reserved Forests shall apply to such forest or land.

The nett profits (if any) arising from the management of such forest or land shall be paid to the said proprietor.

In any case under the chapter in which the Local Government considers that, in lieu of placing the forest or land under the control of a Forest-officer, the same should be acquired for public purposes, the Local Government may proceed to acquire it in the manner prescribed by the Land Acquisition Act, 1877.

The owner of any forest or land comprised in any notification under section thirty-five may, at any time not less than three or more than twelve years from the date thereof, require that such forest or land shall be acquired for public purposes, and Local Government shall acquire such forest or land accordingly.

These provisions we submit are not fair. They involve a direct encroachment upon private rights. In those cases in which it may be deemed necessary to restrict the rights of the proprietor, the Government in common fairness ought to take over the forests by paying compensation. As the Secretary of State says, private rights ought to be interfered with as little as possible. We admit that private interests must give way to public interests, but if private rights must be taken over for public advantage, due compensation ought to be given from the public exchequer.

WARREN HASTINGS AND NANDKUMAR.

THE first article in the last number of the *Calcutta Review* by Mr. Beveridge throws considerable light on the conduct of Warren Hastings towards Nandkumar. Macaulay, says the *Reviewer*, has not done justice to Nandkumar and has let off Hastings much too easily. "While," says Macaulay, "we have not the least doubt that this memorable execution is to be attributed to Hastings, we doubt whether it can with justice be reckoned among his crimes." The *Reviewer* remarks: "Surely there is a strange inconsequence here, and one much more lamentable and surprising than that which the essayist finds in the conduct of Pitt with regard to the Cheyte Singh charge. If Nandkumar was murdered, the brand should be stamped on the man for whose advantage, and at whose

instigation the murder was committed, and not on the humble instrument. After all, it was not Impey but the jury who found Nandkumar guilty, and who got him hanged, and possibly both. Impey and the jury really believed that Nandkumar had forged, and that he deserved death. The man, however, who put all this in motion was Hastings, and but for him the prosecution would never have occurred, and he therefore is guilty of Nandkumar's blood. So far from the execution not being one of Hastings' crimes, we are inclined to think it is the worst he ever committed, for it is the only one which he seems to have committed solely for his own advantage. In the Rohilla war and in the maltreatment of Cheyte Singh and the Begums of Oude he had the interests of others to serve, and probably he did not reap any personal advantage from these transactions. But the sole object of the prosecution of Nandkumar was a selfish one. Hastings had taken gifts or bribes, it was inconvenient for him to acknowledge this or to make restitution, and so he killed his accuser. There was nothing heroic or even excusable in this, and there is no reason why we should refuse to condemn him for it. Macaulay insinuates, rather than asserts, that Nandkumar's charges were false, but if so, why was he put to death, or why did Hastings never at any time attempt to clear himself?" Hastings became resident at the court of Murshedabad in July or August 1758. On 25th August, 1758, his friend Scrafton wrote to him from Calcutta, "I am vexed when I write you that Nandkumar is appointed Collector of the revenues of Burdwan, Nadiya and Hooghly by the Committee. This takes Burdwan and Nadiya out of your power: you will have nothing more to do than to collect for the other balances." Hastings protested against this appointment in a letter to Clive. The latter thus answered it on the 10th September: "I have just now received your letter of the 7th instant, the contents of which, I must confess, have surprised me as much as Nandkumar's appointment could you, for I cannot account for your ignorance that Nandkumar was to be appointed Collector of the Revenues of Burdwan, Nadiya, and Hooghly for the two ensuing years, and that the money collected was to be paid at Hooghly. This was agreed upon at Moorshedabad when I was there and before we had thought of desiring you to accept of the management of the Darbar affairs, and our reasons for desiring to have the money paid at Hugli, in preference to Muxadabad, were to avoid giving the Nabob and the great men about him umbrage in seeing such large sums coming into the Treasury and then sent out again for the use of the English." Hastings represented that the Newab of Moorshedabad had resented the appointment of Nundkumar. Clive thus wrote in reply on the 25th November: "I cannot think Nundkumar deserving of the Newab's resentment without it be for his known attachment to the English, of which I am fully assured. The Burdwan revenues are little or nothing behind-hand, the tuncaws in the other lands he has nothing to do with, the true cause of the Newab's hatred to Nundkumar proceeds from his not joining with Oomar Beg in Roy Doolab's ruin and overthrow. Nandkumar has now under the Nabob's own hands offers of a title and jaghir if he would bring the affairs of Roy Doolab's letter to a good issue. By this you will judge what the Nabob is about. You may lay it down as a maxim that the Masalmans will never be influenced by kind treatment to do us justice. Their own apprehensions only, can and will induce them to fulfil their agreements. The present situation of our affairs requires our being more compliant than would be consistent with the interests of the Company at any other time." The above extracts show the origin of Hastings' dislike to Nundkumar. The *Reviewer* says: "Mrs. Fay tells us in her letter that one of Hastings' characteristics was, that he never forgave. It was on this account that she was so afraid of her husband's irritating him. This characteristic seems to mark his relation to Nandkumar and there is little doubt that the Governor-General of 1772 and 1775 retained a deep sense of the affronts which the young Resident at Murshedabad had sustained in 1758." The *Reviewer* stops here in his narration of Hasting's relation with Nundkumar, and touches upon other points in his early Indian career. There is a letter, dated 13th May 1759, from Clive, which says the *Reviewer* reads strangely after what we know of his conduct to Omichand. Hastings had apparently made some crooked proposal and Clive wrote as follows: "I have received your letters of the 27th and 29th ultimo, but by no means approve the proposal you made to the Nabob with respect to Roy Doolab; I perceive that your scheme in so doing was if possible to get at the true design of the Nabob's sending for the Mahrattas. However, I do not think it right that such artifices should be put in practice by us. I would leave all trickery to the Hindus and Musalmans, to whom it is natural, being well convinced that the reputation we have in the country is owing, among other causes, to the ingenuity (sic) and plain dealing for which we are distinguished." The following note by the anonymous translator of the Seir Mutakhereen, (a renegade Frenchman) throws some light on the mystery of making fortunes in Bengal in those days. "Vansittart, who had brought a lac of property into Bengal, and left it with no more than nine (a sum which his very salary and commission could have easily made up) was very far from being worth one-tenth of the property of his Diwan (Ram Chand.) Although both the Governor and Hastings were so much cried down at the time for having sold Bengal to Mir Kassim for twenty-two lacs, an assertion proved to be an atrocious calumny when Vansittart after a five years' administration set out for England with less than ten lacs and Hastings, his associate, proved to be so poor that having in vain applied to his Diwan (Kantu) for a supply of Rs. 12,000 for present subsistance in England, he was at last obliged to receive assistance from Aga Bedross (Coja Petruse), but without being able to pay it sooner than ten years after when Hastings was second at Madras."

We look forward with great interest to the continuation of this article.

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

Is nobody responsible for the Postal Department? We are tempted to put this question after seeing the *insouciance* with which all questions connected with the internal administration of the Postal department seem to be burked or kept out of public view. Every now and then something or other is cropping up, and after a temporary flutter it drops. The course which questions connected with the Postal department take may be indicated as follows. A screw seems to be loose somewhere; public attention is directed to it; perhaps a departmental enquiry is made, of which the public know nothing, and then the machine moves as before. Two inferences are suggested by this state of things—either the public are entirely in the wrong, or the departmental heads are supremely indifferent to public opinion. The first inference might have been held to be correct, if certain judicial decisions had not lately disturbed public faith in departmental drill. The recent judgment of Mr. Justice Macpherson did the work of a Commission, and it is believed that a departmental enquiry is going on. In the meantime there has been another judicial decision, which also throws much light upon the internal working of the department. In this case Babu Hemnath Bose, late Post Master of the Howrah Post Office, was charged with the criminal misappropriation of a sum of eight annas, recovered as postage on a letter delivered from the Howrah Post Office. Mr. Rattray, Deputy Magistrate, has carefully gone into the facts, and recorded a lucid and elaborate judgment. After describing the system of work followed in the Howrah Post Office he finds that in the case before him the "despatching officer" of the Howrah Post Office in a *chalan* "from Howrah to Howrah" was the Head Clerk, "the receiving officer," the accused. The *chalan* of the 31st May, however, was initialed by the second clerk as the "despatching officer" and by the Head Clerk as the "receiving officer." It was urged by the prosecution that it was a most gross violation of duty on the part of the accused to allow the Head Clerk to sign the *chalan* and the receipt letter register, and that the entries in the peon's book ought not to have been made without reference to the *chalans* and receipt letter register. The Deputy Magistrate, however, remarks "that the irregularity with reference to the signing of the *chalans* and receipt letter register on which so much stress has been laid, was not confined to the occasion mentioned. The accused had for months previous to the institution of this case sent in these forms under the signature of the Head Clerk, apparently without any serious notice on the part of his superiors. It is not for the Court to notice the irregularities complained of. The fact that such irregularities did exist has alone to be taken into account. A criminal court cannot look upon any departmental neglect of duty, however grave, in a departmental point of view, as *per se* evidence of criminal intent; nor can any such neglect render the person concerned liable to punishment in a criminal court. On the documentary evidence, therefore, which constitute the indirect evidence in the present prosecution, it is shewn that it was quite possible for the accused to have been an *unconscious* tool in the hands of his subordinates and under such circumstances he would justly be entitled to a discharge." The head-clerk, munshi, and peon however all gave evidence against the defendant. Their story was that the accused had criminally misappropriated the fee of 8 annas to make up a certain "disallowment." The accused urged in defence that the letter in question was registered, and double registration fee charged on it under his orders; that the *chalan*, being signed by the Head Clerk, shews that the Head Clerk had satisfied himself as to its correctness, and that the receipt letter register being signed by the same officer shows similarly that he had compared it. That the entries in the "peon's book" were made by him on the statement of the Munshi and the clerk who prepared the receipt letter register, and that under such circumstances he did not see and had no means of knowing whether the postage in question had been entered. That the work was done according to the usual routine, and nothing occured to give rise to any suspicion on his part. As regards the disallowment alluded to by the witnesses, the accused stated that the money was realized by him from the head peon. The Deputy Magistrate remarks: "It appears that such disallowments were of monthly occurrence and are stated to have represented sums debited to the accused as the head of his office—sums which he says were usually recovered from the peons through whose negligence they fell due. With reference to the alleged payment of the postage to him, the accused states that the Munshi as treasurer received all postage recovered, and that this sum must have been paid without his knowledge either to the peon from whom the disallowment was recovered or otherwise appropriated by his subordinates." The Deputy Magistrate then continues: "With regard to the direct evidence tendered, it seems highly improbable that the accused would have entered into an elaborate discussion with each of his subordinates on a matter which, after all, was nothing more than the recovery of postage on a bearing cover. Further, the evidence shows that postage on certain covers was sometimes paid direct to the accused, consequently, the payment alleged, admitting it to be true, was nothing so extraordinarily exceptional as appears at first sight."

It would appear that previous to the prosecution a departmental enquiry was made into certain charges brought against the Post Master. About the 10th of June the second clerk of the Howrah Post Office wrote to the Post Master General bringing several charges against the accused. In this letter no mention was made of the present charge which, however, the witness stated he knew of at the time. Mr. Owens, Inspector of Post Offices, was directed to make an inquiry. On the 12th June he examined the clerks and recorded their depositions. On the following day he again examined the clerks. In the depositions of the Head Clerk, recorded by Mr. Owens, no mention was made of the present charge. On the 13th June Mr. Owens received from the Post Master-General a letter written by the second clerk in which the second clerk had brought forward the present complaint for the first time. The second clerk stated that he wrote this letter on the evening of the 12th June. Mr. Owens

submitted the report of his inquiry to the Post Master General on the 14th June. It was not with reference to the present charge. He stated, however, that he verbally informed the Post Master General at the time of the present charge having been made on information acquired by him from the clerks on the 12th and 13th June, which information, however, he did not record in the depositions taken by him on these dates. It was not till the 17th June, and then only on his own authority, that Mr. Owens recorded any depositions on the present charge. Mr. Owens added that the depositions, recorded on the 12th June were destroyed by him on the following day, as they had reference to charges which, in his opinion, were not proved, and that the depositions recorded on the 13th June excluded such statements as had been recorded the day before, and, in his opinion, not proved. It is implied by the defence that Mr. Owens' conduct in this matter arose from the depositions of the 12th June contradicting the depositions recorded the following day. The Deputy Magistrate remarks:

"Mr. Owens states that the present charge is the most serious of the several charges he enquired into against the accused and that he came to this conclusion on his examination of the witnesses on the 12th and 13th June. It is, therefore, difficult to understand why, if the facts in connection with the present charge were spoken to by the witnesses when their depositions were recorded on the dates mentioned, they were omitted in the record of their evidence. The statement of witness that the *chalans* and receipt letter register bearing on this charge were in the Compiler's Office at the time and that he was, therefore, unable to verify the evidence of the witnesses, can scarcely be considered a satisfactory explanation for the omission. In this portion of the evidence therefore the omission of Mr. Owens to place on record the statements of the witnesses bearing on the present charge the absence of any mention of the present charge in the first report of the second clerk to the Post Master-General, and the omission of this witness to make any mention of the charge in his recorded evidence before Mr. Owens, cannot but be looked on as prejudical to the prosecution.

Very strong grounds, moreover, exist for questioning the credibility of the clerks and peons who have been examined. These men were the subordinates of the accused, and it is shown more or less at open feud with him. The accused is stated to have been unnecessarily harsh and severe in his dealings with his subordinates. The Howrah Post Office books show that the fines imposed by him on his subordinates were excessive. The Munshi was reprimanded by the Post Master-General on the report of the accused, and he has been fined several times by the accused. The accused states that the Head Clerk and the second clerk have been more than once reprimanded by him. The divisional Inspector remarks on the 15th June "the whole establishment have risen against the Post Master" under whom they are evidently quite unwilling to serve." Although this remark is with reference to a report of the accused of the day previous, it points to a state of affairs showing much ill-feeling between the accused and his subordinates. Before this, about the end of May or beginning of June, the peons in a body complained of the accused oppressing them. It seems not unreasonable under the circumstance that the court should have grave doubts as to the disinterested nature of the evidence of the Post Office subordinates who, besides from their own showing if their story is to be credited knowingly and willfully abetted the accused in defrauding the Government.

When the cover, the subject of the present case, was registered in the "book of registered letters received for delevery," the following remark was made with reference to it by the Head Clerk under the express orders of the accused.—"Contents visible and charged at double registration fee, 8 annas." This entry goes far to disprove the charge brought against the accused. Its presence is the only record of the transaction, the subject of this enquiry; for had the cover not been recovered, initself a most exceptional circumstance and one that the accused could hardly have anticipated, the entry alone would have been strong evidence of such a charge having been made. It has been stated that in all probability the entry escaped the memory of the accused when he is said to have directed that the double registration fee should not be entered in the *chalan*. But the preparation of the *chalan* and the entry referred to were concurrent circumstances, and the fact could hardly have escaped the mind of the accused at the time. The accused was not bound to place on record any such remarks: it was entirely gratuitous, and its existence is in itself strong evidence of the absence of fraudulent intent.

It may be stated, in conclusion, that the accused has put in copies of testimonials from his superiors which speak, in the highest terms, to his character and services.

The defendant was, accordingly acquitted. As the judgment of the Deputy Magistrate shews, it was a case of foul conspiracy against the Post Master. We are glad that the prosecution was instituted, for it has thrown light on the dark recesses of the Post Office, which would otherwise have not been obtained. It shews what a wicked plan was laid to ruin an innocent man. But what surprises us most is that the Post Master General should have sanctioned the prosecution—and for what? For the sake of the paltry sum of eight annas! The amount was of course not of much consequence, if there was a criminal intent, but after a patient investigation the Deputy Magistrate has come to the conclusion that there was not a tittle of truth in it. Now, the question is could not Inspector Owens, and the Post Master General have made the same discovery? Several charges were brought against the Post Master, all of which were disproved? Was not this fact a sufficient presumption that there was a conspiracy against the poor Post Master? Did it not strike the Inspector or the Post Master General that any further charge coming from the same source ought not to be lightly entertained? If they thought that the new charge was deserving of investigation, was it not necessary for them to exercise the utmost care and judgment? Did the Post Master General exercise this care and judgment? The issue of the case shews what he did. And what is the result? The poor Post Master is literally ruined—he is reduced to a beggar. Our readers may recognize the Post Master of Howrah, Hemnath Bose, as the hero of the great conversion case of 1865 we believe, in which Dr. Duff took so much interest. What must be the feeling of Hemnath now about Christianity as exemplied in the persons of Inspector Owens and the Post Master General? There are two pious Christians, we name them with due deference, who are charged with the administration of the Postal Department, we mean Mr. Monteath, the Director General of the Post Office, and Mr. R. B. Chapman, the Financial Secretary, under whose control the Postal Department is, and what do they think of the treatment of this poor Native Christian? He has been as we have observed above ruined by the prosecution and now shelved into a clerkship on Rs. 75 a month. But will no notice be taken of the conspiracy, which has been judicially exposed? We conclude as we commenced—is nobody responsible for the Postal Department? We humbly and respectfully put this question to Lord Lytton.

THE LAKHIRAJDARS OF ASSAM.

OSCILLATION seems to be the chief characteristic of the Indian policy of the present day, and the uncertainty, which necessarily prevails, is as a matter of course a fruitful source of popular dissatisfaction and discontent. In 1870 the Commissioner of Assam made two alternative proposals, *viz.*, that the Lakhirajdars of Assam be prohibited from cutting timber growing on the waste portion of their mehals, or that they may be allowed to do so on the understanding that half the value should go to Government. The Board of Revenue pronounced "both alternatives impolitic and illegal." The Board thus wrote to the Commissioner of Assam: "If the Lakhirajdar is the malic, the Government has no right to interfere in any way beyond assessing the land; if he is not, the Board now are clearly of opinion that the Government have no right to interfere in the manner proposed. The decree by which the Lakhirajdar holds his tenure has made over to him certain lands, and draws no distinction between his right in one portion of that land or the other. The reason that no assessment was fixed on the jungle land is apparent from Col. Jenkins' remark in 1853 that "no revenue was receivable from jungle lands" (See para 13 of Appendix H of Mr. Mills' report.) It is clear also from your last letter that such interference as you would wish to exercise is unusual and has never been before attempted in Assam, nor indeed, in any other place, that the Board know of, where lands are held under a judicial decree or even under a lease. As regards the question of expediency, the Board have already in their orders No. 94 B dated 29th July last, stated why they think such interference mischievous as tending to discourage cultivation. The Board therefore request that you will not interfere in any way with the timber on the estates of Lakhirajdars." The Government of India subsequently ordered that the waste portion of the Lakhiraj lands shall be exempt from payment of revenue till they are brought under cultivation. The Chief Commissioner of Assam now proposes to set at naught both these orders. He contemplates to assess the waste lands on which timber trees are supposed to exist and to levy a tax upon those trees. The Lakhirajdars of Kamrup have made a petition to the Government of India remonstrating against these proposals. They state that the lands in question were formerly purely rent-free grants made by the Native Raj with a certain number of paiks or slaves either attached to them or given separately for their cultivation, that after the conquest of the province by the British Government the cultivated portions of the grants were subjected to assessment at half rates, and that the paiks were emancipated without any compensation [*vide* Mills' report of the province of Assam page 17, para 53.] The introduction of a timber tax, the memorialists state, is calculated to discourage, if not to put a stop to, the extension of cultivation and thus defeat the very purpose, for which the grants were made, inasmuch as the list of tax-paying timber trees prepared by the Chief Commissioner includes almost all the trees that are likely to grow in any jungle land in Assam, and as before reclaiming any such land for the purpose of cultivation, (be it tea, coffee, jute or any thing) a Lakhirajdar must pay a sum of Rs. 50 to 100 per acre in the shape of timber tax—an outlay which many of the Lakhirajdars can ill afford to pay. The Lakhirajdars are proprietors of their estates and by custom and consent of the Government possess heritable and transferable rights in them (*vide* General administration Report of Assam for the year 1874-75 and 1875-76 page 42 para 216.) They have been in the uninterrupted enjoyment of their rights since the creation of their grants by the Native Government, and as those rights were recognized by the Special Commissioner under the British Government, as evidenced by some of his decrees given in favor of purchasers of certain estates sold by the original claimants during the pendency of their claims, it might fairly be questioned whether it is open to the Government to deprive them of their just rights. The assessment of the waste lands of the Lakhiraj estates would thus involve gross injustice to the proprietors. It would practically be a confiscation of their admitted rights of property. We do not believe that the gain to the State by the imposition of the timber tax would be considerable, but the loss in good reputation would be much greater. Happily the final decision of the question does not rest with the local Government of Assam. We cannot believe that the Governor General in Council will sanction measures, which such a competent authority as the Board of Revenue pronounced to be both inexpedient and illegal.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE UNDERSTAND that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor leaves Darjeeling on the 10th instant. His Honor will visit the Irrigation Works at Dehree, then meet the Behar zemindars at Sonepore, and afterwards visit Chupra, and will return to Calcutta at the end of the month. The Behar zemindars are making grand preparations to give a hearty welcome to His Honor.

WE ARE informed that Mimtazud-ud-daula, Nawab Sir Mihommed Faiz Khan Bahadur K.C.S.I. and Raja of Sirmur K.C.S.I. have been appointed Members of the Viceroy's Legislative Council.

THERE was scarcely any rain in any district in the territories under the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal during the week ending the 27th ultimo, but as yet the state and prospects of the crops are not unfavorable, though the closing showers are much needed in many places. In Pooree the crops are very backward and in some parts of Balasore the harvest threatens to be very poor and scanty. There was neither storm nor rain yesterday as predicted by the weather prophets. The absence of rain is much to be regretted.

HERE is an example of the civilizing influence of our Government. It has permitted the young Maharaja of Durbhanga, who is a ward of Government, to marry two wives; his younger brother has been, however. told to be content with one. What is the reason of this invidious

distinction ? Is it because the senior ward gets the bulk of the fortune, and his dignity therefore requires two wives ? If two wives have been sanctioned for him on the score of family custom, his younger brother was equally entitled to the same privilege. Surely an enlightened Government like ours ought to have set a better example than what it has fallen to our lot to record. It was once contemplated by Government to prohibit bigamy and polygamy, but in this instance, the Government has itself sanctioned bigamy, though the case does not fall under any one of the exceptions of the Hindu law, under which bigamy is justified. The age is progressing in Bengal !

WE ARE informed that estimates have been made, which are likely to be approximately accurate of total expenditure on Famine in Madras from beginning to anticipated end. Total amount including loss of Revenue of all kinds is eight and half millions, that of Bombay Famine rather under two millions. This means an annual charge of 42 lacs per annum by way of interest at 4 per cent. If the Government obtains an additional revenue of about 30 lacs from the new Stamp Bill, surely it will not impose a heavy famine tax for the sake of 12 lacs of rupees. We have shewn in another column what savings may be effected by economy in the proper direction.

THERE seems to be an impression abroad that at the last meeting of the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta the house-rate was fixed at 9 per cent for the coming year. Nothing of the kind was done. The Budget was not discussed, but as required by the law was formally laid before the Commissioners and then referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report.

IT APPEARS that the statement that Mr. Aitchison, the distinguished Foreign Secretary, will succeed Col. Keatinge, as Chief Commissioner of Assam, is without foundation. It is now stated that Dr. Hunter will receive the appointment, and that his nomination has originated with the Secretary of State. We can hardly believe this rumour. Dr. Hunter has had so little administrative experience that it is incredible that he will be put in charge of a Province. His appointment would be a grievous injustice to many officers, who are senior to him and far superior in experience. At one time Mr. Bernard was named for the Chief Commissionership of Assam. Lord Ulick Browne had we believe the promise of the appointment from Lord Mayo. Sir Stuart Hogg has also a fair claim to the appointment.

WE HAVE received the last report of the Madras Famine Relief Committee. It is stated that with one or two minor exceptions the work of organizing Local Committees and Sub-Committees, and reorganizing Individual Agencies, for the distressed Districts of the Presidency, is now completed. There is scarcely a taluq not embraced within the scope of the General Committee's operations. Some dissatisfaction seems, however, to prevail among the native community of Madras in consequence of most of the agents employed being Missionaries. We have, however, no objection to the Missionary agency, so long as it does not make relief a means of conversion. The rate of mortality during the month of August we are grieved to notice has been very heavy. The Committee remark: "There can now be no question that the mortality due to Famine and disease induced by want of proper sustenance, in August, will reach 100,000. To more clearly realize what this means it may be noted that over 3,300 died every day in the month, 120 per hour, two per minute of the whole twenty-four hours. It is feared by some who have recently been through the distressed districts that the September Returns will show results equally bad with August. In Mysore the mortality has been worse than in Madras, but Returns are not to hand. It is not only in the number of deaths that the effects of Famine will be felt for many years to come, but also in fewer births. A return from North Arcot for August shows that while the average of births in that month for the five preceding years was 4,552 in August this year it was only 2,467, thus showing a decrease in that month of 2,085." What a terrible death-roll this ! The effects of the Famine have been thus in diverse ways most deplorable.

THE CALCUTTA GAZETTE of the 24th ultimo contains a statement of works of public utility executed by private individuals in Bengal during the last year. The number of works with their cost, as compared with previous years, is noted below :—

Years	Number of Works.	Amount.
		Rs.
1871	46	54,800
1872	99	80,600
1873	163	1,99,715
1874	847	5 00,592
1875	121	6,05,034
1876	925	2,78,129

The Lieutenant Governor remarks : "The amount expended upon these valuable works is considerable; and, taking into consideration the expenditure by the minor Maharajah of Durbhunga on the roads which were commenced as relief works in the year 1874 and were completed in 1875, the amount expended in 1876 will be compared favourably with the contributions of any previous year. His Honor is also pleased to notice the increase under the head of schools, dispensaries, and serais."

IN COMMENTING last week on the Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the study of English in vernacular schools we committed a mistake by stating that the "minor vernacular scholarship" was open to vernacular schools. The phrase "minor vernacular scholarship" was wrong; it should have been "minor scholarship," which is open only to Anglo-vernacular schools. So far we were wrong, but our position remains intact. As the Resolution says :

IT was laid by Sir John P. Grant, when Lieutenant Governor, as a cardinal principle of the Bengal educational system, that "the Government vernacular schools were to be looked upon as established for the express purpose of improving vernacular education, with a view of acting effectually on the masses of the people who must always remain strangers to English language and literature." This principle was re-affirmed by Sir Cecil Beadon in 1866, when "the Government again insisted on the middle vernacular schools being regarded as model schools for the encouragement of education among the rural population, and being conducted on a strictly vernacular footing. Parents (it was said) were quite at liberty to have their children taught English out of school hours; but the practice was not to be made a cloak for introducting English instruction into the Government vernacular schools. It was intended that these orders and principles should govern also the course of instruction in the aided vernacular schools.

Gradually, however, it would seem that the Education Department lost sight of these principles as affecting the management of schools not purely Government institutions, and English classes were allowed to be added to the aided vernacular schools, until at length there ceased in many places to be any distinction between a middle vernacular and a English school, save that it was held that under the Scholarship Rules of 1872 only schools which were avowedly Anglo vernacular could compete for minor scholarships. In June 1876 this restriction was removed The orders of Government (No. 4876 of 10th December 1866) prohibiting the teaching of English in aided vernacular schools were withdrawn, any middle class school was permitted to compete for both minor and vernacular scholarships; and it was even ruled that any lower class school might compete for the then newly formed lower Anglo vernacular scholarship.

It will be seen from the above that the original basis of the scholarships was vernacular education. The Director proposes to revert to the vernacular constitution of the so-called Anglo-Vernacular Schools, but would allow English to be taught therein. This arrangement we hold will not remedy the evil, which the Lieutenant Governor deplores. We are of opinion that a broad line of demarcation ought to be drawn between the vernacular and Anglo-Vernacular schools. If it is necessary to encourage Anglo-Vernacular schools by the maintenance of the Minor Scholarship, then the vernacular basis upon which the Director lays so much stress ought not to be insisted upon. Anglo-Vernacular Schools to which the Minor Scholarship is open are mere shams; they are properly speaking Vernacular Schools, and they ought to be relegated to their legitimate position.

WE HAVE received the following letter from our Chittagong correspondent :

SIR,—The Chittagong Tehasildar's affair has, it seems, an essence of eternity and fatality in it. It began, I believe, in September 1876, if I am not misinformed—it has been officially stated, much earlier,—and it is now November 1877, but still the matter is far from approaching its end. Though Babu Kali Sunkar Sen the now well known Sub-Deputy, took charge from the Tehasildar as early as October 1876, it took him nearly seven months to bring to light that the said Tehasildar had embezzled Rs. 47,000, *afterwards paid into the Treasury*, and that he had committed forgeries, all of which struck him as he assured Mr. Sarson while taking over charge, and were certainly based upon papers then obtained by him. But unfortunately on trial the former charge was condemned as *misrepresentation*. Mr. Eden will please take note, not by Newspaper Correspondents, but by the self same Sub-Deputy, while the latter was pronounced to have been a subsequent manipulation by "*somebody*."

After this edifying termination of the prosecution, the Chittagong public had thought that Mr. Newbery would express his indignation at his being so miserably hood-winked but they were soon undeceived. Instead of taking the Sub-Deputy to task, he bent all his energies to ruin a Native Officer, who had as a friend dissuaded the Sub-Dy., when referred to by him, from pursuing such an unpromising prosecution. Mr. Lewis, the milk and water Commissioner of Chittagong knows as you must have observed, only one thing —"Ditto to Mr. Kirkwood !" Then for a couple of months something like terror reigned in Chittagong, and a secret enquiry was set on foot to put down the poor man whose only fault—if fault it was—was nothing more nor less than an innocent indiscretion. So soon as the Tehasildar's affair came to an end, should it prove unfavourable to him, I believe it is in his contemplation to publish a pamphlet, so that it may remain a lasting record of a chapter of English Administration of Justice in this country. But to return to my narrative,

The poor Officer referred to has fallen a victim to official credulity and prejudice, and one sided representation. But still Mr. Eden's sense of justice is strong, and the Commissioner, I understand, was called upon by him to report on the facts contained in the Tehasildar's memorial presented in the meantime, and so strongly commented upon both by yourself and the *Daily News*, as well as the *Statesman* enquiring as to whether the Sub-Deputy was fit to be retained in the service. It took Mr. Lowis full *three months* to prepare the report, and the impression here is, as it was fully anticipated, that it exonerates the favourite Sub-Dy. from all blame. You would no doubt feel curious to know how the palpable contradictions in the Sub-Dy.'s evidence have been explained, the malice attributed to him by Mr. Sarson's judgment answered, in fact how two such strong judgments of two different judicial tribunals, reflecting so severely upon the Sub-Dy. Collector have been demolished by a corner report of that Magician Mr. Lowis. The memorial too, it is said, has been pronounced a tissue of falsehoods, though you may recollect, that almost all the statements of any importance contained in it, were supported by judicial decisions and official papers.

Our Lt.-Governor plainly told the people of Dacca that whenever they had any grievance against any public officer, if instead of at once taking it into the courts of Law, they came to him, they would receive proper redress. This is truly what the Tehasildar has done. Though he was strongly advised by his counsel to bring three charges against the Sub Dy. 1 for Perjury, 2 false prosecution, 3 Defamation, he has memorialized His Honor and the institution of both Civil and Criminal proceedings against the Sub-Dy. will no doubt depend upon the result of his memorial. But does the judicial system of Chittagong hold out to him much hope of redress ? Mr. Lowis is both Judge and Commissioner of Chittagong and when such is the case can the judiciary be independent of the executive ?

Thus you will see there hangs a fatality about this unfortunate Tehasildar's case. It began with his ruin, victimized the only man who wanted honestly to save him, and now it has recoiled upon the Sub-Dy. Collector's own head.

In the meantime this gentleman's administration of the Government Estates in the Kutubdea Island has not been, if I am informed aright, unproductive of marked result. The people of Kayerbil who swore hard before Mr. Sarson, have had their embankments renewed, while the people of other estates, who held out, have been left to their fate. The rent-roll of the Government Estates has dwindled into a mere name, though a private Estate by their side is in a flourishing condition. The Sub-Dy. Collector has been allowed privilege leave, I believe, for a time to regain his equilibrium which has been so sorely tried, and to rest for a time upon the laurels given to him by Messrs Badcock and Sarson.

WE GIVE the following extracts from a letter, which has been received by our well known townsman Babu Peary Chand Mitra, from Mr. Scott of the American Theosophical Society :

Your acceptance of the Diploma of our Society has afforded us all pleasure for, as I remarked in my letter of 5th June you are known in this country, and by many appreciated at your full value. Your essay on the Psychology of the Aryas had prepared us to enjoy the one on the Psychology of the Buddhists which has just appeared in the London *Spiritualist*. I am somewhat anxious to see what will be said of the latter by the critics of Europe, who pretend to know

so much about Buddhism but only succeed in proving that they do not know its alphabet. The time is auspicious, I think, for a thorough exposition of oriental philosophies. Christianity has nearly run its course. The Papist half is lapsing into Fetichism, the Protestant into ritualism. In a Paris letter I saw the other day, that France is rapidly becoming paganized, each district, if not town, having set up its tutelar god or goddess, to whom the most fervent aspirations of the faithful are directed. Sacerdotalism has eaten out the heart of faith like a hidden cancer working within one's body. Its blight is upon all Christendom. You will find upon reading Madame Blaratskey's book that one chief object of the Theosophical Society is to make these facts known to the *Heathen*, the better to convince them that it is a thousand times better that they should hold to the pure faiths of their fathers and exemplify as they always have, in their every day life the morality and spiritual mindedness they inculcate. I personally descend from one of the Puritan Fathers who bigots and tyrants though they were at least sacrificed home and all for their religious convictions, I should be recreant indeed were I not ready to do the same now; and so it come out that what is herewritten hasbeenpublicly spoken and written by me in this country, and will be repeated until I die. But as I said to you before, we are few in number and need help. To Indian scholars like yourself we stretch out our hands. We seek neither notoriety, profit nor advantage. We give our time, money, labor all, (you may imagine what it costs in a Christian community to proclaim oneself a Heathen,—it means just what the conversion of a high caste to Christianity in Northern or Southern India would mean the degree of social estracism differing of course with the peoples. Now, sir, will you and your friends co-operate with us? We can do much for each other. You can teach us about your religions, we can spread that knowledge here. We can give you facts that your countrymen ought to know about practical Christianity, you can dissem nate them among the poor dupes of the missionaries. Give the names of men whom you can enlist with you in organising a branch of society, and I will send them Diplomas. This does not burden your time, for you need not meet regularly. There are young men about you, full of zeal who would doubtless be glad to take the labor upon themselves under your direction. Give me their names. Hain Moses and C. C. Massey and other reforming spiritualists are about organising a branch in London.

Last week I received a diploma of membership in the Royal Oriental Order of Apen and of the Sat B,' hai" and have been given a responsible office in which I hope to do some good for the faith and the good cause One of the most influential Editors of this country told me recently that if I would persuade some twenty pious Hindoo scholars to come here and discourse every Sunday upon the oriental religions we could "sweep the country" He would have to be a man whose life would bear the closest scrutiny and who would be competent to debate theological questions with our best divines He thought the country was ripe for such teachings, for exact science is fast destroying, the popular faith in immortality and the people are falling into materialism for lack of some better refuge. I thoroughly concur in this opinion, but unless your friends in India can find the man and the means, we can do nothing. I know the obstacle of caste and I have to leave the whole subject to your wise discretion. Society is too poor to offer any pecuniary aid. One such preacher here would do more to rid India of the incubus of missionaries than any other agency. I can insure him the widest publicity for his teachings through the press, with the conductors of which I have very extensive acquaintance.

Have you seen anything in Indian journals about the cremation of Baron de Palme's body last year by our society or the funeral rites in the "Ragan" form that we celebrated? If so will you not oblige us by sending me a copy or copies of paper or papers?

Madame Blaratsky quotes extensively in her book from your essay on the Arayas and would gladly have done so with your other essay if it had been received before her pages had been stereotyped; Let us have from time to time, whatever you give to the public. The American journals have begun to notice the above named book already in advance of its publication and soon we shall be showered with abuse of the Christian organs. But this we expect and do not dislike; better abuse and denunciation than silence.

Conveying to you the cordial regards of my associates and the assurances of my personal high esteem.

DR. WOODFORD we think would have done well, if he had not instituted the libel case against the *Bengalee*. As Mr. Dickens, the Magistrate, remarked, "as a journalist, the defendant had a right to comment on the public conduct of a public man. It was not contended that Dr. Woodford's private character was in any way injured or reflected on." Mr. Stokoe, Counsel for Dr. Woodford, said that "what his client felt about was that, though the language used was not very strong, yet the accused took for granted, though in a moderate way, that Dr. Woodford had misconducted himself, and had brought disgrace on himself as a high official connected with Government. Looking at the article, there was nothing whatever to shew what the misconduct was. There was no allusion whatever to any circumstance to explain the alleged misconduct, and people reading the article would take it for granted in the absence of any explanation, of any circumstance, that the imputations on the character of Dr. Woodford were true." But the Magistrate at once corrected him by saying, "that Dr. Woodford's removal was quite sufficient ground for comment, but if the comments were of so offensive a character as to amount to an offence, then of course the writer was liable. His Worship then drew Mr. Stokoe's attention to the paragraph which appeared in a subsequent issue of the *Bengalee* and observed, that the readers of that journal who had seen the paragraph complained of, must also have seen the subsequent paragraph in which allusion was made to Dr. Woodford's removal. That was the circumstance which did not appear in the former paragraph, and which the readers of the *Bengalee* must have subsequently been aware of." Mr. Stokoe still contended that the defendant was guilty of a libel because he had said that "he had been convicted of misconduct." The Magistrate observed that the word *convicted* was evidently used not as by law, but as by Government. Then followed the following conversations:

Mr. Stokoe remarked that persons not knowing the circumstances would be led by the paragraph to the conclusion that Dr. Woodford had done something of which he should be ashamed.

The Magistrate thought that that was exactly the whole of the libel complained of, and inquired whether the prosecution were prepared to shew that Dr. Woodford was not removed for any misconduct.

Mr. Stokoe observed that he was not then prepared to shew why Dr. Woodford had been removed.

His worship observed that for his part he knew nothing of the circumstances.

Mr. Stokoe asked if the court knew nothing, would it not, after reading the article complained of, infer that Dr. Woodford had been guilty of misconduct.

His worship observed that it was perfectly clear, that unless the defence could justify the publication of the paragraph under the protecting clause of the Penal Code, the paragraph would be taken as libellous. If the prosecution wish to push the defence to the proof, then the matter would have been gone into. But it appeared to his worship that there was a sufficient apology in the subsequent paragraph.

Mr. Stokoe thought that there was no apology.

His worship explained that there was no actual apology; in fact no such apology was needed when the defence could justify their conduct by law. The only important question was if the matter must be gone into, it must be sent up to a higher tribunal, as he was not sitting there to dispose off cases like these summarily, the more so to settle a point wherein the liberty of the Press was concerned.

Mr. Hill drew the Court's attention to the fact that Dr. Woodford had himself, in a letter which appeared in the *Statesman*, admitted the fact of his removal; and it was, no doubt, to that circumstance that the paragraph in question alluded. Mr. Stokoe said that that letter simply mentioned the bare fact of removal, but that fell far short of a conviction, as would be shown if the case went on. The Magistrate thought that it was very unusual of Government to take such a step without any reasons. Mr. Stokoe observed that it was. There was a report. The Magistrate (interrupting). "I am slightly aware of the facts. There is, however, the paragraph, which has been withdrawn, and if you go on, you will have some difficulty." Mr. Stokoe admitted that there was some difficulty in the matter. If, however, as he was instructed, apology were given, he would not press the matter.

Mr. Hill explained how the matter really stood. Dr. Woodford having informed the public at large that he had been summarily removed by the Government, the case became a subject of public comment, and the paragraph in question contained comments on the public conduct of a public officer. Nothing whatever was said regarding the private character of Dr. Woodford. The accused was ready to apologize if he had said anything regarding Dr. Woodford's private character. But the comments that had been made were, as observed before, directed to public conduct as a public servant. It was the privilege, nay the duty of the Press to comment on the conduct of servants. And that was exactly what the accused had done. The paragraph could be justified. The Magistrate: And justified by law.

Mr. Hill continued that the defence must maintain their undoubted right to comment on the public conduct of officers. But, at the same time, he would admit that the word "convicted" was rather ill-chosen. The defence did not intend to say that Dr. Woodford had been found guilty.

Mr. Stokoe thought that in the subsequent paragraph the defence were not justified in coming to the conclusion that they had. They were not justified in suggesting misconduct as the cause of removal.

After some further discussion, the Magistrate suggested that the parties should consider whether they intended to proceed with the case, and he would give them half an hour.

The Counsel on both sides after this with the permission of the court retired for consultation, and on their return Mr. Stokoe informed his worship that he had given consent to the withdrawal of the charge, on the understanding that the defendant put in a certain paragraph in the next issue of their paper.

It was then arranged that a paragraph should be inserted in the *Bengalee* and the charge was withdrawn. The following is the paragraph referred to:

"With reference to the remarks that were made in our paper of the 13th Ultimo relating to the removal of Dr. Woodford from the Campbell Medical School and Hospital we are informed by Dr. Woodford that the matters which led to his removal are still the subject of investigation. We are sincerely glad to learn this, and we hasten to correct an inference which might have been deduced from our language that Dr. Woodford had been convicted on some specific charge.

All's well that ends well. At the same time we must confess he opinions expressed by the Magistrate fully vindicated the liberty of the press. It would have been satisfactory to all parties concerned, if the report of the Committee of Enquiry into the management of the Campbell Hospital, and the orders of Government resulting in the removal of Dr. Woodford from the Superintendentship, had been laid before the Court.

REVIEWS.

Kusumkanan. By Adharlal Sen. The New Bengal Press, Calcutta, 1877.

POETRY like painting is an imitative art, but poetry excels painting in this that while the former can penetrate into the deep recesses of the heart, the latter seeks to pourtray the feelings of man upon his face. The painter gives us a glimpse of the heart through the mirror of the face, but the poet carries us into the secret and unknown chambers of the heart. The poet before us has successfully painted the passions—particularly the passion of love. His "*Kusumkanan*" or the "flower-garden" is a charming ground decked with flowers plucked from the region of Love. Intensity of feeling and richness of imagery are the chief characteristics of the poem; the lines flow swiftly but smoothly; but they are sometimes rugged, uneven and unequal. The reader will however derive real pleasure from the skill with which the poet has unfolded the mechanism of the heart.

Rajani, a Tale. By Bankimchandra Chatterjea, Banga Darsan Press, 1877.

IT is enough to say that this story comes from the pen of Babu Bankimchandra Chatterjea. Though this book is not written in the usual happy style of our author still, it has great merits which would make the reputation of an ordinary novelist. To our mind the character of Amarnath is a trifle overdrawn, and the narrative too simple and therefore somewhat bald, but the tide of interest is irresistible so much so that one can hardly take it up without being tempted to go through the whole at one sitting. We have heartily enjoyed this book, and thank the author for giving us such an enjoyable story to beguile our leisure moments. There is a vein of thoughtful reflection, couched in a graceful and elegant diction, which happily combine instruction with entertainment.

Mitra Kavya, Part I. and II, and Helena Kavya. By Anandachandra Mitra. The Indian Mirror Press, Calcutta 1877.

BABU Anandachandra Mitra evidently possesses the faculty divine. His "*Helena Kavya*" is decidedly a more thoughtful and careful work than his "*Mitra Kavya*." In his "*Helena Kavya*" he has shewn a fire and freshness deserving of high praise. The poem is written in blank verse, and the ease and smoothness with which the lines run reflect great credit upon the author.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette,—*October* 31, 1877.

GENERAL.—Mr. J. D. Anderson Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Jamalpore, Mymensing is transferred to Nuddea and to have charge of the Meherpore Division of that district.

Mr. F. B. Taylor, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Meherpore division Nuddea, is transferred to the Sudder Station of that district.

Moulvi Ikram Rusool Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector 24-Pergunnahs is transferred to Monghyr.

In modification of the orders of the 10th September last, Moulvi Abdool Wassey Ahmed, Officiating Sub-Deputy Collector, Jungypore, Moorshedabad, to be a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in the Chotanagpore Division *vice* Mr. A. C. Mackertich.

Baboo Juggut Chunder Roy Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade Moorshedabad to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade and is transferred to Jungypore.

Baboo Bani Madhub Chatterjee, Tehsildar of the Khas Mehals, Diamond Harbour division, 24-Pergunnahs to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade and is posted to Diamond Harbour.

Baboo Dwarkanath Mookerjee, Sub-Deputy Collector Diamond Harbour is transferred to the Suddder Station of Moorshedabad.

Baboo Rajgopal Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hazareebagh, to have charge of the Palamow Division, Lohardugga.

Moulvi Abdool Wassey is posted to the Sudder Station of the Lohardugga district.

Mr. R. H. Pawsey Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector to act as Magistrate and Collector of Mymensing until further orders.

Mr. F. Wyer, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Bogra, obtained leave for sixteen days with effect from the 13th August last.

Mr. William Ravenshawe Ricketts to *Officiate* as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector and is posted to the Rajshaye and Cooch Behar Division.

POLICE.—Mr. W. R. Green Officiating District Seperintendent of Police Pooree, is transfererd to Cuttuck as an Assistant Superintendent of Police of the First Grade on being relieved of his present duties.

Mr. G. M. M. Ridsdale, District Superintendent of Police Fourth Grade, Tipperah to be a District Superintendent of Police of the Fifth Grade, with effect from the date Mr. H. A. Coomb joins his appointment at Pooree. He will however continue to act until further orders in the Fourth Grade of District Superintendent.

Mr. B. Rattray, District Superintendent of Police is transferred to Rajshye.

Mr. H. W. I. Bamber District Superintendent of Police Rajshye, to be District Superintendent of Police Durbhangah *vice* Mr. C. Jennins.

Mr. H. Munro to be Assistant Superintendent of Police Durbanga, but to continue to officiate as District Superintendent of Police of that district till relieved.

Mr. H. A. Coombs Assistant Superintendent of Police First Grade Monghyr to be a District Superintendent of Police Fourth Grade and posted to the District of Pooree.

Mr. W. P. Davis District Superintendent of Police on leave is posted to Hooghly

Mr. W. D. Pratt District Superintendent of Police Hooghly is transferred to Sarun, but will continue to act as Inspector General of Police,

Mr. V. W. Bertelsen Assistant Superintendent of Police, Second Grade is promoted to the First Grade of Assistant Superintendent of Police.

Mr. G. D. Graham, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Third Grade is promoted to the Second Grade of A sistant Superintendent of Police,

Mr. B. Rattray District Superintendent of Police, is appointed to be District Superintendent of Police, Maldah.

Mr. A. H. James District Superintendent of Police Maldah is transferred to Durbanga. This cancels the orders transferring Mr. H. W. J. Bamber, District Superintendent of Police Rajshye to Durbunga.

Inspector Nepal Chunder Sen of the Hazareebagh district is promoted from the Third Grade to the Second Grade of Inspectors.

MEDICAL.—Dr. U. C. Mookerjee to officiate temporarily as Civil Medical Officer of Dinagepore until further orders.

Third Grade Assistant Surgeon Shib Chunder Bose to act as Demonstrator of Anatomy and Teacher of Midwifery at the Temple School of Medicine, Patna.

Third Grade Assistant Surgeon Hurry Narain Banerjee a Supernumerary at the Presidency to have Medical charge of the Sub-Division and Dispensary at Sewan in Sarun.

Assistant Surgeon Taraprosanno Ray Additional Chemical Examiner to Government, to act as Teacher of Chemistry at the Campbell Medical School, Sealdah.

Advertisements.

OPINION OF THE PRESS.

—— is accompanied by copious notes well considered, of the latest decesions upto date, arranged at the end of the code under the numbers of the section to which they refer *Englishman* 24th August 1877.

The compilation is sure to be useful on account of the notes which are succinct, pertinent, and explicit, and which indicate much labor and research *Hindoo Patriot*, 27th August 1877.

Messrs. Sreenath Banerjee and Brothers have brought an edition of the new Code of Civil Procedure with one important feature which is sufficiently distinction to call for special favorable notice—*Indian Daily News*, 23rd August 1877.

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The Competitive examination of Candidates for admission into the Dehree Training School will be held in Calcutta, Allahabad and Lahore on Thursday the 6th December 1877 and the two following days. Lads residing in Calcutta and Lower Bengal should present themselves for examination at the Hall of the Presidency College at 11 A. M., of the 6th December. Those residing Up-country should report themselves at the Chief Engineers' Office at Allahabad or Lahore, as may be most convenient, on the 5th December for further instructions as to the time and place of examination.

Intending Candidates are reminded that no applications for admission into the School will be received *after the 10th Instant.*

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Tenders are invited for the execution of Earthwork and metalling along the River Bank at Hastings between the Commissariat Jetty at Coolie Bazar and Tollys' Nullah and between Tollys' Nullah and the Government Dockyard at Kidderpore. Tenders will be received up to noon of Tuesday the 13th proximo.

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G. H. SIMMONS,
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